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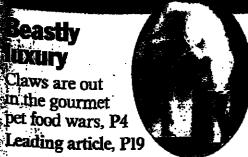
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Monarch under the microscope

Andrew Roberts on Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen, PAGE 35



Two for one flights Token, PAGE 6 PLUS win Virgin

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APPOINTMENTS 28 pages SECTION 3

Assembly plan angers nationalists

Major seeks elections for Ulster

By Nicholas Watt and Nicholas Wood

JOHN MAJOR announced plans for early elections to a Northern Ireland assembly as a new road to peace yesterday after an international commission said the paramilitaries would never bow to his demand that they give up their guns before being admitted to ll-party talks.

But the move, which could lead to elections by May, was greeted angrily by nationalists, who fear that they will be left at the mercy of the Unionist majority in the province. John Hume of the SDLP accused the Prime Minister of buying Unionist votes to stay

The Unionists have made clear that they are prepared to sit down with Sinn Fein even if the IRA has not given up its weapons - provided all parties have faced democratic elections. And yesterday Mr Major embraced that idea with his plans for an elected body to produce the negotiators for the all-party talks.

Downing Street officials promised that political leaders in the province would be consulted quickly, leading to a summit with the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, by the middle of next month. In the Commons, Mr Major suggested that the elections could be held in the spring, but his officials made clear later that a would not be brought forward unless it had broad support in freland. One senior aide said: "You cannot coerce people to the conference table. What the Prime Minister is prepared to do is give it his best shot."

The Mitchell commission's main conclusions and recom-

mendations included: ☐ No guns to be handed over ahead of all-party talks parallel with talks

☐ Weapons destruction to be monitored by independent commission and those surrendering guns to be granted All groups to renounce

☐ People forced to leave Northern Ireland to be allowed to return. Relatives of missing victims to be given information about whereahouts

□ Elections to a new body with an appropriate mandate to build confidence between the communities

The assembly idea was put forward after the three-man panel chaired by the former American Senator George Mitchell concluded that the Government's previous demand on the surrender of terrorist arms was unwork-able. The commission said that the weapons should, instead, start once all-party talks

rere under Senator Mitchell, who admitted that he had no magic formula for peace in Northern Ireland, said the gulf between the Government and Sinn Fein on the issue was unbridgeable and a compromise

was necessary to build confidence a step at a time. His report urged all parties

to commit themselves to six principles of democracy and non-violence, and suggested that "an elective process" could help to create the climate of trust needed to make Mr Major later told the

Commons that he still believed his demand for the surrender of arms was valid. but he accepted that an elected assembly was another way ahead. While he conceded that the nationalists had registered their concerns about the idea, he claimed there was widespread cross-party support for it in the province, and he said: "In a democratic system like ours I cannot see how elections could be regarded by any of the parties as a side issue or as a block to progress.

"We are ready to introduce legislation, and to seek both Houses' urgent approval for it, in order to allow an elective process to go ahead as soon as may be practicable."

Responding to Tony Blair, Mr Major said that the elected body could provide a "pool of representatives" for the allparty talks, with the size of each party's delegation reflect-ing its success at the ballot box. The assembly could also act as a sounding board for the outcome of any all-party talks Conservatives and Unionists applauded the Prime Min-Continued on page 2, col 4

Report details, pages 8 and 9 Paul Bew, page (8 Leading article, page 19



Paul Sampson is bailed by fellow pupils at Woodhadse Grove after being picked for the England rugby squad

Schoolboy joins England squad

By Paul Wilkinson and David Hands

PAUL SAMPSON, 18, was in state of euphoric shock for the England rugby union squad for the match against Wales in ten days' time.

Three years ago the A-level student was too small to be likely to be heading for topflight rugby. But as a late

stature from a slight stand-off half not considered for national under-16 honours into a stocky 12-stone fullback, just ort of 6tt, capable of downing bigger opponents during England's senior during England's senior schools win over Australia

Bath, Leicester and Wasps are all reputedly keeping an eye on a player whose pace

northein indoor 60 meter go with the Yorkshire junior 100m and 200m titles.

for 100m made him 11th in the country in the under-20

category.

Roger Howard, coach to the first XV at Woodhouse Grove School, near Bradford, of which Sampson is captain,

the way in the game."

He will train with En-

gland's 30-man Five Nations Championship squad this be included in the team for the Wales match on February 3. Last night Sampson said: "It hasn't sunk in yet. I just

couldn't believe it." England squad, page 44

Harman survives as Blair crushes revolt

By Philip Webster POLITICAL EDITOR

HARRIET HARMAN was safely entrenched in her Shadow Cabinet job last night after a fighting Commons attack against the Conservatives and a striking display of Tony Blair's mastery over his party.

The Labour leader crushed a party revolt against the Shadow Health Secretary by telling his MPs that he would not allow her to be "crucified" by the Tories over her choice of school for her son.

He imposed his will on a highly-charged meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, declaring that he had no intention of yielding Ms Harman's "scalp" to the Conservative Party. His demand for unity lifted his party after the most difficult few days of his leadership and encouraged his MPs to put aside their differences with Ms

They turned up in force in the Commons to rally behind her as she laid into Tory health policies, and effectively and humorously put down Conservative MPs hoping to exploit Labour divisions over education.

It was clear that she had survived the double ordeal of an initially hostile PLP meeting and the Commons debate because Mr Blair, facing the most serious crisis since he took over the party, put his authority on the line as never before. Not for the first time the support he received from John Prescott, himself angry over Ms Harman's decision. was vital.

Ms Harman's apology to the PLP for any "succour" she through her decision to send her son to a grammar school Continued on page 2, col 6

The adept survivor, page !! Philip Howard, page 18 Leading article, page 19

Forte moves to buy back hotels

Just one day after suffering takeover defeat at the hands of Granada, Sir Rocco Forte announced proposals to buy back the Forte Meridien, Exclusive and Heritage Hotels. He is also interested in the London hotels previously owned by Forte but now controlled by Granada, Details of the deal were discussed yesterday by Sir Rocco and Granada chief GerryPage 23

Mortgage cut

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society has cut variable mortgage rates from 7.49 per cent to 7.24 per cent. Customers who use the society's direct telephone mortgage service will pay an even lower standard rate of 6.25 perPage 23

Internet Times

■ The Internet edition of The Times is now available on http://www.the-times.co.uk



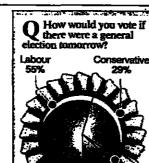
Glimmer of poll hope for Tories

By PETER RIDDELL THE Tories have climbed to

their highest position in the polls for over two years, even before Labour's rows over the Harriet Harman have had time to affect public opinion.

The latest MORI poll for The Times, undertaken last weekend, puts the Tories on 29 per cent, up one point since early December and at the highest level since December 1993. But Labour retains a

huge lead at 55 per cent, unchanged on the month. The poll was undertaken between last Friday and this Monday, but a MORI analysis shows virtually no differ-ence in voting intentions between those questioned before and after the story broke Saturday about Ms Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school. The defection by



Emma Nicholson from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats in December appears to have had no lasting impact since support for the latter is unchanged at 13 per cent.

Barely 14 per cent are satis-fied with the way the Government is running the country with 76 per cent dissatisfied. MORI interviewed 1,770 adults at 135 ward sampling points between January 19 and 22.

Judge orders girl 'bride' to return from Turkey

SARAH COOK, the 13-yearold who with her parents' blessing "married" a Turkish waiter she met on a family holiday, was made a ward of court by a judge yesterday. Sir Stephen Brown, Presi-

dent of the Family Division of the High Court, ruled that she should be brought back from a remote corner of southeastern Turkey "forthwith", after a request from Essex County Council's social services department.

The judge said Sarah would not again be allowed to leave the country without the permission of the court.

Jackie Cook, the girl's moth-

er, was en route last night for Kahramanmaras, where her daughter is being cared for by the parents of Musa Komeagac, the 18-year-old unem-ployed waiter she "married"

in a religious ceremony two weeks ago. Before she left the family home in Braintree, Essex, Mrs Cook said that; with hindsight, perhaps the wedding" had been a mistake and her daughter would be

better off in Britain. The judge directed the Official Solicitor and Essex County Council to investigate the circumstances surrounding the case and prepare reports before the matter was next brought before him on Monday.

Sarah's mother and father, Adrian Cook, were also effectively stopped from touting her story to the press. Only details of the affair already in the public domain may now be

Although the British court's ruling is not legally enforce-able in Turkey, the authorities there appear keen to bring the embariassing affair to a speedy conclusion.

A Turkish court rejected an appeal last night for Komeagac to be released from jail. He is charged with holding a child against her will and having sex with a A woman from Birm-

ingham claimed yesterday that Komeagac proposed to her li-year-old daughter a month before he met Sarah. Mrs Coringe Haynes, from Kitt's Green, said the waiter approached Stacy in Alanya, where Sarah met him, during a holiday and said: "I want to marry her. I have lost my heart. Mrs Haynes, 35, said: There is no doubt that the man who married Sarah Cook is the same one who offered to

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Prince bemoans lack of millennium spirit

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales, in a stinging criticism of plans to celebrate the millennium, says today that the marking of the new century is in danger of becoming a giant but meaningless party with no spiritual significance. In an article in *Perspectives on*

Architecture, the magazine published

tions, doubts the value of the proposed "landmark projects" to be built across the country and calls for far greater involvement by all the faiths. "The deeper, more fundamental

aspects of the millennium are barely being considered. We need to think more deeply about what the millennium means," the Prince says. The message of the turning of the century in association with his Institute of was that it was a time for renewal.

Architecture, the Prince questions the "The concept of renewal is not the secular nature of the planned celebra- monopoloy of Christianity, but is

central to many of the great faiths. Everyone, whatever their culture or beliets, can have a stake in the process which the millennium represents." The millennium "provides a new

opportunity for people to work together with a common purpose. It provides the opportunity to execute works of art and to build significant public buildings which will be a genuine reflection of the deeper values of humanity." He bemoans the fact that most projects submitted to the Millennium

material. "No one has come forward with plans to erect a great religious building such as the new Hindu temple in Neasden (north London)." Religious leaders welcomed the Prince's stance. The Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey, said the celebrations should have a strong

spiritual component because they

commemorated Christ's birth.

Millennium storm, page 14

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BODY & MIND

Rates may vary and are correct at due of going to press. Comparisons are based on interest bearing current accounts. Overdrafts are subject to atams and are not available to persons under 18 years, Written quotations are available on request. APR of 9.9% is variable. All overdrafts are repayable on demand. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol and The habit of a lifetime are trademarks of Abbey. National pic, Abbey, House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Blair receives education in vanity of pride

is that they start gloating before they've won. Premature triumphalism (the medical term is exultatio praecox) is common among politicians. It is thought to arise from wanting something so much that, when it comes within reach, self-control is iost. The odious spectacle ofiers enemies an unguarded flank. Triumphalism cheats the triumphant of their

A famous example occurred at the Sheffield rally, days before Labour were (as they believed) to win the 1992 election. There was much punching the air and arriving in helicopters. We'll be the judge of that," thought the

Labour seemed on course to win that the voters resolved to knock them off it. Days before. in an excess of confidence, Shadow Chancellor John Smith had actually told them

he was going to put up taxes. Premature triumphalism has surfaced again more re-cently. With "new" Labour scoring a famous victory over Clause 4, and their party surging ahead in the polls, the Blairite modernisers begin to assume that the press will feed from their hands, that the public does not wish to know about gaps between preaching and practice, and that the "old" Parliamentary Labour Party can be herded around like sheep by Mr Blair's young



POLITICAL SKETCH

lads and Lassies. "Who cares," reason the modernisers. "where we send our children to school? Mind your own business." Mr Blair starts prefixing his answers to interviewers with a spoken "Look" and an unspoken "stupid". Pride. Last weekend came the fall. By Tuesday Blair was

Minister's Ouestions. Nobody, however, could call him faint-hearted: he has the opposite problem. On Wednesday he led an audacious fightback, knocking the sheep

in serious trouble at Prime

into line behind him. That afternoon Harriet Harman carried all before her in a triumphant Commons per-

Ah! That word again. Did Mr Blair, offering up a prayer of thanks for his deliverance, resolve to tread a little more carefully for a while? Did he heck! By yesterday morning, as he surveyed the "Blair crushes revolt" headlines, the Labour leader became super-

His fightback was now unstoppable. Spitting at adversi- Major could not believe his

he would actually choose Education for his attack on the Tories.

By no means was this forced on him. The first question was from a Labour backbencher. Barry Sheerman. Thus the PM could be steered off schools (Sheerman chose the CBI) leaving Blair, when he rose, with a free choice of

If Blair had asked about cancer wards and Major had turned his reply to St Olave's school, the House would have felt demeaned, the PM wrongfooted. We would have groaned.

But Blair chose schools.

ty, he would turn it into an luck! All those pre-polished advance. At PM's Questions killer facts about Labour's education policy and alleged double standards could be used. Revelling in the cheers Major redoubled the attack, more assured with every hit.

This was John Major's best PM's Questions ever. Backbenchers rose to cheer. He left to a display of Order Papers fluttering like flags on a Tibet-an temple. Suddenly, the Tory viners slither over themselves to patronise their leader. In his sourer moods. Mr Major might echo Dr Johnson:

"Is not a Patron. My Lord, one who looks with unconcern on a Man struggling for Life in the Water, and when he has reached ground encumbers him with Help?"

Prince wins few allies in millennium call

Church leaders advised the Prince of Wales yesterday against pursuing a millennium crusade to build more churches and mosques. They said that with congregations falling there were enough empty pews. What was needed

was a year of spiritual renewal.

Bishop Philip Pargeter, who represents the Roman Catholic Church on The National Millennium Commission, said: "We are much more concerned about looking after the needs of the poor than building a new cathedral. A spokesman for the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain said that their religion forhade them from accepting money raised by the National Lottery. The Millennium Commission insisted its proposals had a spiritual element.

Victims tested for drugs

Adults killed in road crashes will be tested for drugs from July because of fears that illegal abuse is one of the biggest single causes of serious traffic accidents. The three-year programme could lead to roadside police checks for drug abuse by early next century. Andrew Howard, AA head of road safety, said: "Drivers should remember any drug could have an adverse effect on driving ability."

Police pay £90,000

Clare Roberts, 31, a trainee solicitor, and two photographers. Malcolm Glover and Paul Demuth, both 40, were awarded more than £90,000 by police after alleging assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution following an incident when Mr Demuth emptied a tiny amount of cannalist from a matchbox in Soho. The Metropolitan Police derived light-life.

Helicopter crash verdict

An RAF helicopter crash in which three teenage air cadets died was "a completely unforeseen and unanticipated event". a coroner said yesterday. Dewi Pritchard-Jones recorded verdicts of accidental death on the victims of the crash, in August 1993, after a two-day inquest at Llandudno, Gwynedd. He praised the resourcefulness of the surviving cadet, Sarah Coker, 19. The three crew also survived. .

Tarantula's lottery trick

As lottery fever sweeps Britain with a record double rollover jackpot exceeding £42.5 million expected this weekend, bizarre methods are being used to pick possible winning numbers. A lemur at London Zoo was given 49 numbered bananas to choose from, parrots have picked out numbered peanuts, and one man picked numbers by letting a tarantula crawl on his payslip.

Youth wins apology

Magistrates, lawyers and police have apologised to a teenager whose eight-month-old conviction for trespass was quashed when it was accepted that another youth had given his name and address. David Watson, 17, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was convicted in his absence by North Shields Youth Court and fined £40 for trespassing on the Metro line. Police have promised an inquiry.

Jet took wrong path

A British Airways jumbo jet tried to land at an RAF base after mistaking it for an international airport three miles away, it emerged yesterday. The empty Boeing 747 was on a flight from Heathrow to BA's maintenance depot at Cardiff but took an incorrect path towards RAF St Athan. The incident came to light when the Air Accident Investigation Board confirmed that it had begun an inquiry.

Russian deal takes root

Gardeners will soon be able to buy seeds by mail order Botanic Gardens through a deal struck with a British gardening club. The National Plant Club, hased in Taunton, Somerset, said the collection, founded in 1714 by Peter the Great, would provide seeds of rare plants never before seen in the West.



JOHN MAJOR took action yesterday to heal a serious rift in Anglo-Irish relations caused by his backing for an elected body in Northern

The Prime Minister wrote to John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, assuring him that he was not seeking to revive a Stormont-style assembly in which Unionists always had

the whiphand. The letter followed a warning from Mr Bruton against taking "unilateral action" and a claim by his deputy. Dick Spring, that Mr Major was going down a cul de sac. A senior Irish official accused Britain of throwing the Mitch-

ell report "into the bin". According to a ministerial source in Dublin, Mr Bruton had less than an hour's notice of Mr Major's challenge to Sinn Fein and the IRA on Wednesday to disarm or take part in elections. After two years of close co-operation between the two prime minis-

ters, the unity of purpose that wanted to work with him in had driven the peace process was under threat.

Dublin was furious that Mr Major, without the customary consultation, appeared to be erecting a new precondition to Sinn Fein's participation in full political talks. The source accused him of damaging the

peace process. On BBC Radio, Mr Bruton' complained that he had been told only in general terms about Mr Major's initiative. We cannot have any unilateral decision on a matter of this nature," he said.

But Downing Street denied that Mr Major had tried to "bounce" Mr Bruton into sup-porting an elected body. Officials said that talk of a rift was "overblown" and that Mr Major had set out the main points of his Commons statement in a 35-minute telephone conversation with the Irish leader the night before.

In his letter yesterday, Mr Major told Mr Bruton that he

Labour highlights nationalist fears

distanced themselves from John Major's call for an elected body in Northern Ireland (Nicholas Wood writes). In remarks that raised a question mark over the Opposition's staunchly bipartisan approach, Marjorie Mowlam, Secretary, highlighted nation-alist fears that the body might

herald a return to the days of

unionist domination. In the

Commons she told Sir Patrick

Mayhew, the Northern Ire-

land Secretary, that the announcement had generated a "worrying air of distrust and a lack of confidence".

She asked him to allay those fears by making clear that movement towards such a body would go ahead only with the agreement of all after John Hume, leader of the mainly nationalist SDLP, held a private meeting with Tony Blair to press his point that the Mitchell report was the way

persuading all parties to hon-our the six principles on democracy and non-violence set out in the Mitchell report. He said that the sole purpose of his initiative was to get all parties around the table as a prelude to starting all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland, with which decommissioning of terrorist weap-

ons could run in parallel. Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, sought to calm the dispute by emphasising that Britain was not trying to impose a solution on the conflicting parties in Northern Ireland. They pointed to two roads to peace - agreement by Sinn Fein that the IRA would scrap some of its weapons before all-party talks, or early elections to a body that would supply the negotiators for all-party talks without prior decommissioning. They denied that Britain had rejected the Mitchell report, which has proposed a compromise formula in which all-party talks and decommissioning

Dublin was angry because it believed that the Mitchell report's recommendation that political parties in Northern Ireland should renounce violence would boister the peace process. Sources said that although the Mitchell recommendations presented a challenge to Sinn Fein, the party might eventually accept them. Mr Major's plans for an make it difficult to sell the Mitchell report to Sinn Fein because the party could rightly claim that it was worthless.

run in parallel...

Leading article, page 17



Grant children's school upset at MP's criticism

By Staff Reporters

CRITICISM of his children's inner city comprehensive education by the Labour MP Bernie Grant drew an angry reaction from teachers at their school yesterday. Lionel Warne, head teacher, said the Tottenham MP had apologised for suggesting the school had failed his three sons.

White Hart Lane School, in Mr Grant's north London constitutency, has the ninth worst academic record in the country, with 37 per cent of 16year-olds failing to obtain a single GCSE last year.

Mr Grant is said to have told a parliamentary party meeting on Wednesday mornhis children to a local school. He criticised the standards of education in his constituency and across London, claiming it was a "disgrace."

Divorcé

Mrs David, a buyer for a

Last year, Jewish women

in marriages that the civil divorce courts have already

Dr Julian Shindler, director

of marriage authorisation in

the Chief Rabbi's office, said:

The Chief Rabbi feels very

strongly there are certain situ-

ations we cannot do very.

much about. At the very least

we can show, at the communal

level, our support for a woman

who may be trapped in this

declared are over.

Grant: was said to be talking generally"

day denied reports that he had considered sending the boys to involved the children in poli-

problems that they have. What he was not doing was particularly targeting that school. He certainly does not believe in private education. He would never have sent his children to a private school."

Mr Grant's 18-year-old son, Jimmy, passed half a dozen GCSEs and is studying three A levels at White Hart Lane, with the help of two hours'

private tuition a week at £20 an hour. Steven, 20, is unemployed, having attended a design course. Jimmy's twin brother Alex is studying catering at

Southgate College. Mr Warne, 53, head teacher for 13 years, said the 83 staff members sent him a letter of meeting at the school. "I think they are hurt and I think they

tics and he's certainly not going to now," she said. "He was talking generally are quite angry. They do not understand why he should about inner city comprehenhave attacked us or them, or Sharon Lawrence, his partsives and some of the serious the school."

Continued from page I religious faith. The judgment, published by the court, states that Mr David, who belongs Going Places **ALL ABOARD! 12.5% OFF CRUISES 造R**OYAL ARIBBEAN chained themselves to the offices of the Chief Rabbi as a protest against being trapped

to a Sephardi synagogue in northwest London, was summoned to the federation three times at his former wife's request. He refused. After the final summons in March 1995 he was given a warning that if he persisted in his refusal to comply with the courts, he would be formally placed in contempt, or nidui. Mrs David was authorised to publicise the nunishment and seek the assistance of the civil medical equipment company, said: "As far as I am concerned my divorce in the civil courts means nothing to me. 1 was married through a religious ceremony and the only enforcing this but religious Jews would tend to respect it. It is a very unusual step to take. It will go on until he purges his contempt.

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Mr David was unavailable

Business backing for Blair vision

By JILL SHERMAN

THE Confederation of British Industry and two of Britain's biggest companies have given their backing to Labour's idea of a "stakeholder" economy. Adair Turner, CBI director-

general, said vesterday it was vital to ensure that a return to rising real incomes did not lead to a pay-price spiral. Rewards had to be linked to productivity and performance.
"It may sound like a statement of the blindingly obvious or some kind of mythical Utopia. But we must develop a

ay i can get out is through my religion."
The case is highlighted in the Jewish Chronicle today. framework giving employees opportunities, prospects and participation in the economy's Dayan Berel Berkovits, of success; dare I say, a stakethe Federation, said that ostraholding," Mr Turner said. cism is the equivalent to contempt in a civil court. He Sir Michael Perry, chairsaid: "We have no means of

man of Unilever, says the group has developed the practice of giving employees having a stake in their companies over many years. In an article in The Times today. Sir Michael says he has no intention of "wandering far into the preelection minefield of controversial social idea" but he points out that "stakeholding" had a well-defined meaning in

business theory. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays plc. welcomed Mr Blair's recognition of the importance of shareholding. Mr Taylor emphasised that a large proportion of the bank's employees already had a stake in the company. "I think the interesting thing about what Blair is saying is that he is accepting the enormous importance of shareholders."

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£7,000	12.75	100.67	114.00	155.93
£5,000	12.75	71.91	81.43	111.38
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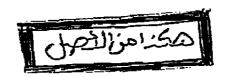
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Give me the boring life, says literary world's newest star



Atkinson: no strong feelings and no hobbies except TV

By Dalya Alberge

THE surprise winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year award, Kate Atkinson, won the support of eight of the nine judges for her first novel, Behind the Scenes at the Museum, it emerged vesterday.

yesterday.

Ms Atkinson, 44, who is twice-divorced with a daughter from each marriage, has been turned from a struggling writer into a literary star by the £21,000 award. She said: "I didn't sleep last night. I kept tossing and turning, thinking 'My goodness me'. It's a bit unused."

nreal."
The chronicle of working-class

Yorkshire life won over the judges despite strong competition from Salman Rushdie's acclaimed The Moor's Last Sigh and Roy Jenkins's much-praised biography of Gladstone. Rachel Cusk, the novelist, was among judges who championed Ms Atkinson's cause. She said: "It is a great book, already number five in the bestseller list.

Another judge, Jane Asher, the actress, felt it was "remarkably good and beautifully written", and Candia McWilliam, the writer, said it made her laugh and cry. Only Julian Critchley, the writer and Tory MP, was convinced that Jenkins should take the prize. He said that he had "struggled grim-

Word is getting out."

ly" with Ms Atkinson's book but "it wasn't my cup of tea".

The winner insisted that only certain passages of the book were from her own life. A medical and surgical shop was just like one that her parents used to run.

As far as she knows, there are no writers in her family. Her father, like generations before him, had previously worked down the mines around Doncaster.

Ms Atkinson said that she does not feel strongly about anything, so relatively little about herself emerges in either the plot or the characters. "Perhaps I'm beyond strong feelings," she said. Her evenings are spent at home in the "less fashionable" part of Edin-

burgh, watching television. She describes herself as a loner who needs her space and is probably difficult to live with. "I've given up on hobbies. Now I do nothing. I lead a really horing life."

She noted that the press coverage of her win failed to paint an entirely accurate picture; with a little artistic licence they described her as a former chambermaid. However much that enhanced the fairy-tale's happy ending, it was no more than a student jub between school and university.

Although her parents gave her a happy childhood in York, she was an "an unhappy child", an only child. "I'm just not a cheerful person." she said. "I was quite a

depressive child. I've got more cheerful as I've gone on. Some children are."

They were a close family, yet she does not believe the experience of two divorces has influenced her disillusionment with the family as a vital unit in society. The family is overrated. We hear so much about the family, especially from the Government, as something that will save society. It argues that the family is the moral centre to our lives. But families are not in

themselves natural.

"We were meant to be part of much larger units. Families can destroy the sense of community. Most have failed marriages. More than 50 per cent live in single

households." She argued that children do not suffer with only one parent: "I brought up two happy, well-adjusted children who haven't needed two parents." Her eldest daughter is 21, a student deciding on her career path; the

youngest is 15.

After graduating from Dundee University herself in 1974, uncertain of her career path, she was employed as a home help, as a teacher in community education, and as a writer of short stories for women's magazines. Her writing career took off in 1988 when she won a Woman's Own short story competition.

Rachel Cusk, page 18

Kit to test children for drugs attacked

By Adrian Lee

A MAIL-ORDER swab which allows parents to test if their children are using drugs came under attack when it was launched vesterday.

launched yesterday.

The marketers of the £32
Drug Alert product, which detects traces of all well-known drugs, denied trying to profit from recent tragedies.

Advertising posters will show a dealer standing at the gates of a school.

of a school.

The parents of Leah Betts, the teenager who died after taking Ecstasy, said the kit should be "used with caution".

The 3 in square swab can be wiped across clothes, furniture, telephones or a child's hands and sent to a laboratory for analysis. Parents are given a confidential report which, if positive, includes advice and telephone numbers for help agencies.

Ken Lodge, managing director of Drug Alert at Chigwell, Essex, said: 'This is not spying. The kit can be used covertly, in bedrooms or on storage units, but also with the agreement of the child."

child."
Leah Betts' stepmother Janet, of Latchingdon. Essex. said: "I think it should only be used as a last resort but there is a danger it could become a substitute for a rapport between parents and children.

"I asked my 19-year-old daughter Cindy how she would react and she went loopy. It's a bit like reading your kid's diary."

Sally Taylorson, adviser on drugs in schools for the counselling organisation Release, dismissed the kits as "ludicrous" and of limited use. There are a million and one drug organisations in the phone book which will give any parent the advice and help they need," she said.

The kir, which originated in the United States, could also be used in the workplace, according to the marketers.

Fair trial impossible because of 12-year gap since alleged incidents

Judge frees music teacher accused of sex with boys

By JOANNA BALE

A MUSIC teacher accused of giving sexual favours to under-age boys walked free from court yesterday after a judge accepted that although there was a clear case against her it would be unfair to

proceed.

Valerie Short, 41, was alleged to have taken part in one-to-one and group sexual encounters with boys aged 13 to 15 from a London youth orchestra that she helped to run. They took place when the orchestra was on tour, after music lessons at her house and even at one boy's home while his parents were in, it

was alleged.
"This teacher made herself available to boys. It was widely known among the youngsters she mixed with." Miranda Moore, for the prosecution, told Woolwich Crown Court, southeast

But after two days of legal argument Judge Brian Pryor said it would be unfair to proceed with a trial because the alleged incidents took place between 10 and 12 years ago. He accepted the defence's argument that Miss Short would not receive a fair trial because of the difficulties in tracing witnesses and evidence that would back her

denial of the allegations.

The judge said that it was clear that none of the three boys who made the allegations had suffered psychological problems as a result of sexual activity "which they had clearly enjoyed". He was also critical of the fact that the allegations were made only after the main complainant,

Mr G, attended a two-day

child abuse workshop while studying clinical psychology at Oxford and decided that he should speak out, allegedly to protect others.

Judge Pryor commented:
"His reasons are certainly
understandable but it isn't
something one would have
thought that he couldn't have
realised for himself long

Miss Short, of Blackheath, southeast London, denied five counts of indecent assault against the boys. Pending trial she was suspended from her post as music teacher at the John Roan School, Blackheath, which she joined after the alleged incidents

were said to have taken place. In a statement read out in court one alleged victim. Mr D, described an assault which took place after a violin lesson at Miss Short's flat. "After the lesson Val went into her bedroom and watched television. I came in and lay next to her on the bed and I started fondling her. She didn't make any effort to undress me but she put her hands down my trousers."

Afterwards she allegedly told Mr D: "You are a naughty

boy."

The same man alleged that on another occasion he became involved in a group sex session with Miss Short and other boys. Mr D later said: "I did it because I wanted to. I

took advantage of her."

Ms Moore explained that although some of the boys admitted to having enjoyed their experiences, it was still an offence for a woman to indulge in sexual activity with boys under 16. She said

shame, guilt and embarrassment explained why it had taken until last year for a victim to contact police, adding: "He became aware of how child abuse affects not only the victim but the abuser and, bearing in mind the position the lady was in, something

had to be done."
Judge Pryor said witness statements suggested that when boys reached the age of 15 she lost interest in them and turned her attention to others of a younger age. "The picture that emerges is of a practice that went on over many years." he said.

None of the witnesses was called to give evidence or face cross-examination. According to written statements another alleged incident took place at the home of a pupil, Mr C, during the latter stages of a Christmas drinks party in 1983, while his parents were in the house. One witness, Mr L, described how Miss Short took off her underwear and let several boys touch her intimately

Other incidents were said to have taken place during an orchestra trip to France. Mr D said in a statement to police: "I remember Val was wearing some outrageously provocative clothes including shorts. It was always common knowledge within the orchestra that Val was interested in young boys."

Louis French. for the defence, said other adults connected with the orchestra including the conductor and head of the music department, told police that they were aware of gossip surrounding Miss Short, but never saw any



Valerie Short, whose future with her school was under discussion yesterday

improper behaviour. The head of department had been annoyed by it, he said.

Judge Pryor commented: "I am surprised that head of department's annoyance didn't materialise into anything." After the case was dismissed

After the case was dismissed
Miss Short, in a statement
read by her solicitor, Joyce
thority

Hitchman, said: "Miss Short has lived with the embarrassment and distress of these allegations for almost a year. She has always denied them emphatically. She now wishes to be allowed to return to

normal life."

Greenwich Education Authority was last night consid-

ering Miss Short's situation at the school. Greenwich Council said: "We set up a telephone helpline to find out more about what Miss Short might have been doing. We did get one call from a parent of a pupil who is still at the school, but they did not want to pursue it."

Husband 'poisoned by dying bigamist'

Day V and A a proposed

A DYING woman murdered the wealthy businessman she had bigamously married by poisoning his food with a lethal mixture of her own drugs, a court was told

yesterday.
Lynn Lowey, 30, a cancer sufferer with between three and nine months to live, is accused of murdering Ian Whalley, 56, her third husband, by poisoning a meal of jacket potatoes. As her husband's body lay undetected at their home. Mrs Lowey laughed to a relative: "No more lan — now I am free."

more Ian — now I am free."

Mrs Lowey, of St Helens,
Merseyside, made a second
appearance yesterday before
Huyton magistrates accused
of her husband's murder.

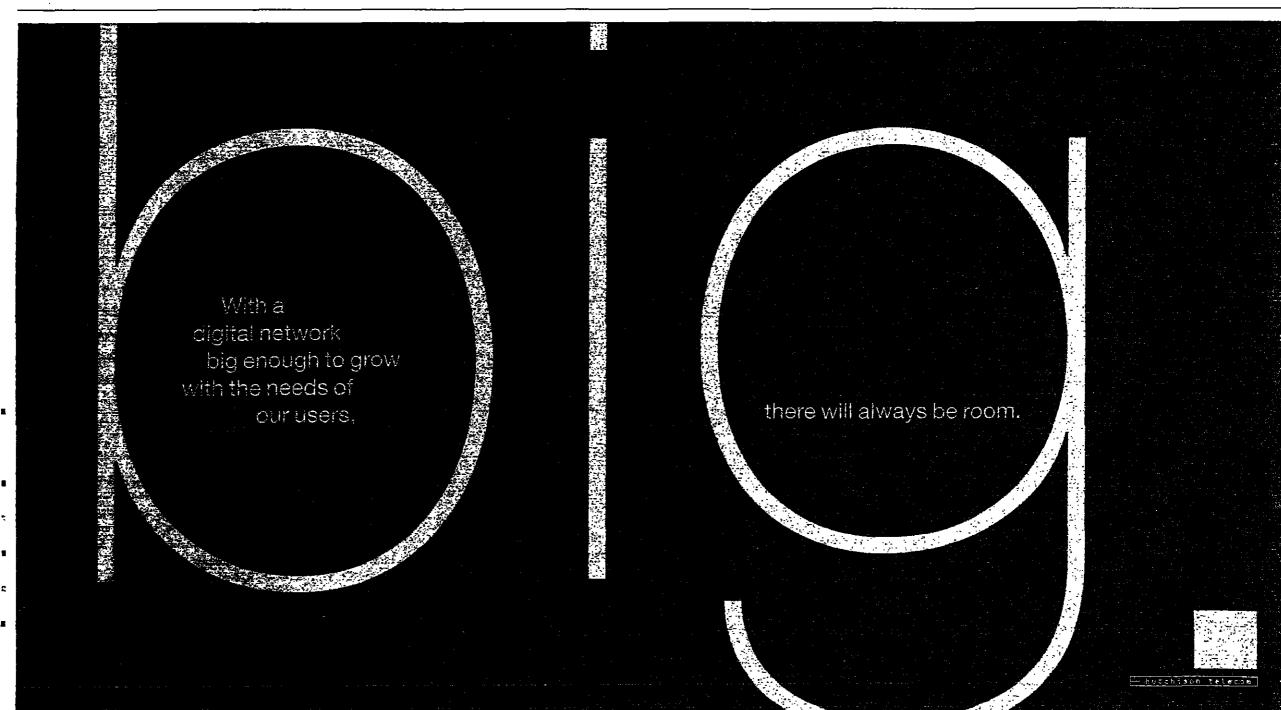
of her husband's murder.

She also faces two charges of maliciously administering prescription drugs as a poison to Mr Whalley, a landscape gardener, on October 25 and November 6, 1994, and one of bigamously marrying him in Gibraltar on April 7, 1994, while married to John Lowey, her second husband and the father of her two children.

Their "stormy" relationship began five years ago, three years after Mr Whalley's wife died of cancer. Mr Whalley was found dead in the mobile home the couple shared on January 8 this year, Paul Becker, for the prosecution. said that there was enough temazepam in Mr Whalley's blood to make him drowsy and enough morphine to kill ուոյ. բուո prescribed to Mrs Lowey, who was treated for cancer of the cervix in 1992. The cancer has since spread to her lungs.

Mr Becker said: "She frequently said she wished Mr Whalley dead and would kill him if she could get away with it. She would not leave him because she didn't want to lose her right to the money."

The case was adjourned for



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Pets tuck in as store wars turn into a dog's dinner

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

DESIGNER pet foods for the "less active" cut and the "more mature" dog were launched by Sainsbury's yesterday, in dely American-based specialist manufacturers who have refused to supply the main supermarket chains.

Britain's growing demand for gournet and specialist pet foods has become such an important area of the market that Tesco is considering complaining to the Office of Fair Trading to allege restrictive practices by manufacturers who prefer to supply small

outlets such as veterinary surgeries. John Gildersleeve, a Tescodirector, said: "We can only assume they want to maintain unnecessarily high prices."

John Ramsden, a director for Sainsbury's said: "There is only one subject more emotive than pet food and that is baby food." The conflict is the latest turn in the nation's seemingly limitless

budget for dining pets. Owners spend about £1.3 billion each year un pet food. Luxury and specialist varieties account for about £750 million. Apart from "superpremium" and "vitamin enriched"

meats available at most supermarkets, discerning cats and dogs can have salmon and chive (with jelly). liver sausage, tuna mousse, canned patės and sugar-free yoghurt drops. There are balanced diets for pregnant bitches, cheese-flavoured crunchies as snacks between meals, and vegetarian food for

dogs. Sainsbury's new Select Diet range of 11 products claims to be scientifically formulated to cater for animals at different stages of their lives, with a growth formula for puppies, older dog formula with "moderately decreased calories to avoid obesity", and a highenergy food for working dogs. Mr Ramsden said: "Our customers clearly wanted this kind of product: there was a problem with supply. so instead of bleating about it we have come up with our own." Among the independent com-

panies refusing to supply supermarkets are Hill's pet food products. Eukanuba (Leanders) and lams. A spokeswoman for Hill's said vesterday: "We have no comment at all."

Pet food has come a long way since the turn of the century, when James Spratt arrived in London, spotted puppies eating ship's biscuits on the quayside and invented dog biscuits. Four years ago, the world's first fast-food restaurant

for dogs opened in Toledo. Ohio. Prices for some pet foods can reach human proportions. A tin of vegetarian dog food is 42p, against 28p for a tin of baked beans. Cat's milk with extra vitamins and reduced lactol is 45p for 250mls, against about 35p for a pint drunk by humans. Sugar-free chocolate drops and yoghurt drops for dogs are £1.37 for 250g, against £1.50 for the same weight of chocolate for humans. John

Shankey, spokesman for Pets at Home, a Cheshire-based wholesaler and distributor which operates 16 pet superstores in Britain, said: People see their pets as part of the family but something as a poor relation because they cannot speak for themselves.

By giving them luxury foods or a healthy diet that they might eat themselves, they feel they are including them in the family unit. In supermarkets people spend more time choosing pet food than any other product."

Leading article, page 19

Computer forecasts of global warming 'proved right' as area the size of Norfolk vanishes

Wrinkles caused by minutes in the sun

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

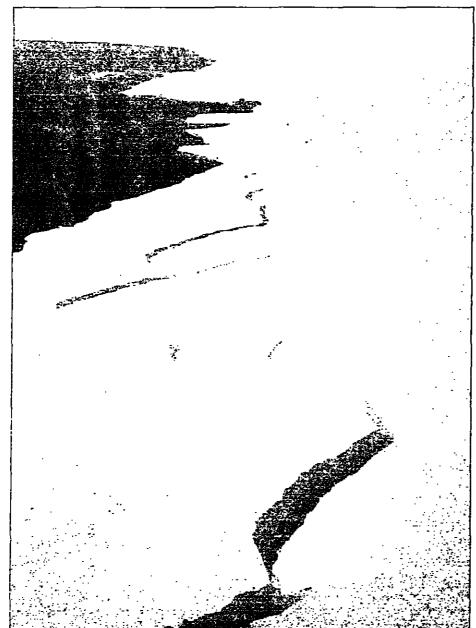
JUST two minutes in the sun is enough to start the production of wrinkle-producing chemicals in the skin. American scientists report today.

Long before the skin has even reddened, enzymes called metalloproteinases are produced and begin degrading the components of the skin that keep it looking plump and youthful.

The discovery could open up ways of preventing sun damage to the skin, by blocking the activity of the enzymes, the scientists report in Nature. Dr Gary Fisher and colleagues at the University of Michigan Medical School exposed light-skinned volun-teers to ultraviolet light from a sunlamp. To guarantee the skin they used was as undamaged as possible, they used the buttocks.

Within minutes of sun exposure. they found. chemicals known as transcription factors, which stimulate metalloproleinase genes. flew into action. Huge amounts were produced in the first day or so.

The scientists say that retinoic acid, a derivative of vitamin A used to treat skin conditions from acne to wrinkles, prevents the production of metalloproteinases when rubbed on the skin.



Scores of ice shelves are at risk of disintegrating if temperatures continue to increase

Temperature rise melts away huge Antarctic ice sheets

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ICE sheets in Antarctica are disappearing at an alarming rate as rising temperatures appear to confirm fears of global warming.

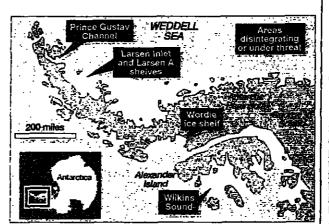
Researchers at the British Antarctic Survey studying the continent's peninsula found after analysing maps and satellite images that five out of nine sheets have disintegrated in the past five decades. In total about 8.500 square kilometres have vanished, an area the size of Norfolk.

At the same time temperatures have risen by 25C. broadly in line with supercomputer forecasts of global warming in the region, caused by man's pollution. The scientists claim scores of other ice shelves will be at risk if temperatures continue to rise.

David Vaughan, a glaciologist at the survey, said yesterday that the retreat of the icc shelves might be part of a natural cycle. But he added: "It might also be a first-class indicator of global warming ... something significant is clearly happening here."

A spokesman said only a few scientists were working on the area and that parts of ice shelves had in some cases disappeared almost overnight. making it hard to notice at the time. The findings, published today in Nature, are based on studies of ice shelves on the peninsula, which stretches southwest from the main land mass. Last February researchers at the survey announced in The Times that a giant iceberg had broken free from a disintegrating part of the Larsen ice

The findings show the retreat of the ice is far more widespread and heading to-



wards some of the continent's bigger shelves such as the Ross and Ronne. Since the 1950s, the Prince Gustav channel ice shelf has disappeared. as have the Larsen inlet and Larsen A on the eastern side. The scientists believe the Larsen B shelf is now

On the western side the Wordie ice shelf has disinte-grated and the Muller ice shelf is disintegrating. The Wilkins ice shelf in Alexander Island just off the peninsula is now also threatened.

The studies suggest there is an average annual tempera-ture of -5C above which ice shelves, projections of sea ice fed by glaciers on the land, cannot survive. A further IC rise is likely to trigger more disintegration of the Larsen ice shelf and could begin affecting the George VI shelf

Mr Vaughan said they believed they were close to understanding why ice shelves suddenly collapse as temperatures rise The team believe the melted

water percolates through weak spots in the ice, transferring heat deep into the frozen shelf. Here it causes cracks and fissures that accelerate the process. Melting water on the surface might also decrease the reflectivity of the ice. allowing more heat to be absorbed.

A further disintegration of the ice sheets could lead to more icebergs in the southern seas, increasing threats to

But penguins, seals and other wildlife could benefit. They tend to thrive on rocky areas more of which would be exposed.

Some scientists have pre dicted that as Antarctica melts sea levels will rise. But Mr Vaughan said that for a signficant impact on sea levels, the Ross and Ronne shelves further south would have to go. They are fed by huge ice sheets which, running off the land, would increase the volumes of the world's seas.

But this would require a further rise of 10C which, at current rates or warming. would take 200 years.

Mr Vaughan said by that time the world would be in such turmoil that sea levels would be far less important than the ability of man to feed

NEWS IN BRIEF Rapist was trapped by discarded shopping

A man who raped a teenage girl at a recreation ground was caught when he left a cucumber bearing a sticker at the scene. Police traced the shop from which it was bought and seized a video film showing the rapist at the shop a short time before the assault

At Winchester Crown Court yesterday Ricki Webster. 22, formerly of Calmore, Hampshire, admitted raping the 17year-old last October. The case was adjourned for reports.

Body sent home

The body of Johanne Masheder, 23, from Wincle, Cheshire, found at a Thailand temple last month, has been flown home after an autopsy determined that she died from a blow to the head. A Buddhist monk has been arrested.

Absent winners

Lottery prizes worth £20 million are waiting to be claimed, including £94,000 for a ticket bought in Oldham last August whose owner has just two weeks left to act. After 180 days, the money plus interest goes to good causes.

IVF discovery

Scientists at University College London have identified the protein in sperm that triggers the transformation of a fertilised egg into an embryo. They believe the discovery may improve the rate of in-vitro fertilisation.

Killer on run

A murderer is on the run after being allowed to leave an open prison for an unescorted shopping trip. Alan Hirst, 40, who killed a clergyman, was 15 years into a life sentence at Sudbury, Derbyshire. He may have headed for London.

Appeal total

The Times Christmas Appeal raised £100,535 for the Royal Marsden Hospital children's cancer unit. A hospital spokesman said: "We are immensely grateful to all the Times readers who have contributed so generously.

CORRECTIONS

☐ Mr Ibrahim Hewitt is the development officer of the Association of Muslim Schools of the United Kingdom and Eire (report, January

☐ KPMG, the accountancy firm (article, January 17), was founded in 1867; Sir William Barclay Peat joined the partnership in 1870.

Today is the 200th anniver-

sary of Robert Burns's death. not his birth as stated in an article yesterday.

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Driving test chief to forgo his bonus

BY JONATHAN PRINN TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Driving Standards Agency will not be paid his £4,000 performance bonus this year because of a sharp rise in waiting times for driving tests.

In a written Commons answer Steve Norris, the Transport Minister, said that the salary paid to Bernard Herdan, appointed chief executive of the agency last year. would be reduced because of the 'non-achievement' of ser-

vice targets.

The agency has been strug-gling with a massive surge in applications triggered by the unnouncement of a compulsory written driving test from July. It was also in the middle of a reorganisation. The average national waiting time for tests has risen to more than 712 Weeks, with waiting lists of longer than ten weeks at 15 test centres.

Learner drivers have also complained about tests being cancelled at short notice because of a shortage of examiners: lust application forms and a telephone booking serrice that is almost permanently engaged. The agency lost its Chartermark in November as a result of the failings.
Mr Herdan, 48, is paid a

basic salary of £59,044 and is entitled to a bonus of up to 15 per cent, of which about half, £4,000, is linked to meeting service performance targets. Sixty extra staff were being taken on to answer telephone

applications and part-time ex-

arniners were being trained,

Mr Herdan said.

Kelvin: spikes fell out

MP tackles a prickly problem

By PAUL WILKINSON

KELVIN the hedgehog is feeling the cold more than most. He is partly bald. Animal welfare workers have given him a woolly coat until the rest of his spines grow back.

Kelvin was a victim of the kind of attack that a Private Member's Bill to be discussed tomorrow in Parliament seeks to outlaw. Youths in a school playground sprayed him with red paint and the toxins caused his spikes to fall out.

Alan Meale, the Labour MP for Mansfield, will introduce his Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, which would make it an offence to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, crush. drown, drag or asphyxiate" any wild creature. But unless the Bill attracts government support it is un-

likely to progress far. The Hedgehog Hospital at Hull is treating Kelvin with the ointment propolis, made by bees, to stop his skin going dry, and feeding him with vitamins.

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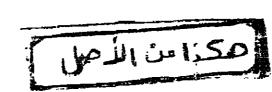
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THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 25 1996



The way we were: Carla Bruni, the Italian model, in Forties-revisited Saint Laurent with turban, left. A severe suit with nipped-in jacket, centre, and a cocktail dress for Hollywood nights from the spring-summer collection

Wartime fashions invade the catwalk

Paris haute couture goes demob happy

FASHION EDITOR

NOSTALGIA is sweeping the haute couture collections as designers roll back the years and find inspiration in wartime fashions. At the start of the week John Galliano dipped into the archives for his Givenchy presentation, then Karl Lagerfeld produced his splendid homage to Coco Chanel's golden years. There was no rationing of

glamour in Paris yesterday as Yves Saint Laurent reinvented the 1940s. Models appeared on the catwalk looking like Greer Garson or deadringers for the wartime trio The Andrews Sisters, as their songs played over the soundtrack.

The look was further emphasised with timewarp accessories - factory worker turbans by Louise de la Falaise, and clunky ankle-strap shoes with peep toes. Saint Laurent also went for Demobstyle tailoring in the form of George Raft double-breasted



Garson: the inspiration for catwalk favourites

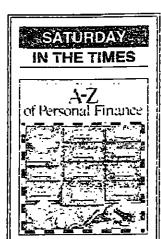
delicate floral dresses with puffed sleeves and pussycat bows which fied at the neck. He featured mannish jackets with severe shoulders over pleated skirts or Oxford Bags but it was after dark that the designer really came into his own. Maribou jackets in pow-der blue and pink were worn

over skimpy black lace dresses while colourful evening dresses sprouted ostrich feathers. Fashion often looks to the past regularly reinventing certain decades through rosecoloured spectacles, usually linked to a popular film of the day. The 1940s have proven especially popular - even Saint Laurent featured similar styles on his ready-to-wear catwalk in the early 1970s.

In the 90s designers have been keen to turn back the clock with reworkings of ev-ery decade since the 1930s on catwalks in New York, Milan and Paris. There has even been talk that the 1980s era of Power Dressing and Design-er Living will be the latest decade to be revisited.

Detractors of these trips back in time fear that in the future there will be no defini-tive image of the 190s for historians to look back on. only a mish-mash of various trends and styles from earlier decades.

However, nostalgia seems to make good business sense. Designers are delighted to self past fashions with price tags fixed firmly in the present.



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Air cadet tells of helicopter crash into lake

By A Staff Reporter

AN AIR CADET yesterday described how she struggled but of a wrecked RAF helicopter that had crashed into a mountain lake. Three other arder-died.

"I felt for the door, swam outand inflated my lifejacket," Sarah Coker, 19, told an inquest at Llandudno, North Wales. It had my eyes open. but could see nothing underwater. When I reached the surface I could see no one else. from the helicopter, I saw a man in a boat in front of me. He pulled me in."

Miss Coker, of Bury, Greater Manchester, was the only cursion from a group of four rades. Christopher Bailey, 15. of Horwich, Greater Manhiester and Mark Oakden. io, and Amanda Whitehead, 17, both of Bury, died. The 30gear-old Wessey helicopter-



Sarah Coker: three other cadets died

crashed into Llyn Padarn. Lianberis, on August 12, 1993. Miss Coker told the inquest that she and the other cadets were briefed by Flight Ser-

geant Andrew Larcombe at RAF Valley in Anglescy. "I understood everything I was told." But the briefing had been about crashing on land. We were given no instructions about the operation of a lifejacket," Miss Coker added. although she knew how one

Recalling the crash. Miss Coker said: "I heard a noise from the tail rotor. It was a metallic clanging ... I was only aware it was an emergency situation when the aircraft crashed into the lake."

The door was open when the helicopter hit the water. "At first I could not get my seatbelt off. I had some difficulty because I am left-handed. You release it the right-handed way. But through instinct. I was turning it the wrong way. Then I managed to undo it." Miss Coker had no recollection what the other cadets were doing as she struggled

Earlier. Flight Sergeant Larcombe said he instructed the cadets for nearly an hour in a similar Wessex. He did not brief them about lifejackets or liferafts but he did deal with ditching in water.

An RAF inquiry report. released in November 1995, showed that the accident resulted from a failure in the tail rotor blades. The crew members will give evidence later.

Angler obsessed by Beast that got away

By Robin Young

AN ANGLER is giving up work so that he can devote himself to catching what he believes is the biggest freshwater fish in Britain.

lan Mann, from Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, once hooked the catfish, nicknamed The Beast. He says the fish, which inhabits gravel pits at Leighton Buzzard. Bediorashire, weighs 120lb.

Mr Mann, a father of four. has given in his notice at the foundry where he works and intends to fish non-stop from June lts. "I am obsessed with The Beast The said yesterday. "It looks like the Loch Ness monster and, when you see it jump, it scares you to death. "I had it on my line once for un entire hour. I was just about to land it when it straightened my hook and escaped. I stood at the lakeside and cried my eyes out. I am 42 this year and my time is running out. My wife is very understanding.

Mr Mann is now using 4in hooks so strong that they cannot be straightened even with pliers. He baits them with a whole tin of luncheon meat or with a lft. 4lb carp. Marie Mann, an assembler

at a light-fitting factory, said: "I have got used to his obsession with fishing and I often go along to sit and watch. If I did not, we would hardly see each other. Ian has been thinking about giving up work for so long that I am not going to stand in his way."



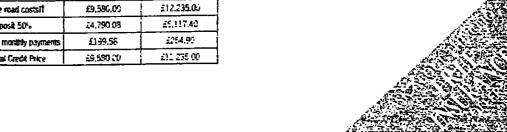


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English Heritage accuses Roman Catholic diocese of deliberately neglecting listed church

Victorian cathedral 'left to vandals and thieves'

THE Roman Catholic Church was accused by English Heritage yesterday of deliberately letting a former cathedral fail

St Mary's Old Cathedral. Middlesbrough, was once a magnificent example of Victorian ecclesiastical architecture and the spiritual centre of a busy town-centre community. The red-brick, Grade II* listed building now has a rotting roof that lets in rain. the stained glass windows are smashed and boarded up. statues removed or stolen and the canopied pulpit, furniture and fittings wrecked beyond

Hundreds of pigeons roost in the hammerbeam rafters while the marble and wooden marquetry floor, now stripped, has been home to drug addicts. Vandals have followed in the wake of thieves and dragged the building "to the point of no return".

English Heritage attacked the Middlesbrough diocese for its management of a church in the top 7 per cent of listed buildings for artistic and historical importance. The preservation group has grown impatient waiting for the church authorities to apply for a grant for structural repairs. We helieve the current state

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The new cathedral, built in 1986, which residents say triggered the decline of the old building

deliberate neglect by the dio-cese," a spokesman said. "We are actually encouraging them to apply for grant aid so we can give every help we can to preserve this as a place of

"We are waiting on the Church. Unless they apply to us we cannot make a response. We want it to be properly maintained and looked after. so we want them to come forward.

The Right Rev Monsignor Raymond Charlton, the diocesan financial secretary, denied the allegation. He said yesterday that negotiations with a developer have raised hope that the building can be saved

from demolition. The plight of the building in a district blighted by the decline of the iron ore industry has given residents the impression that they have been abandoned by the Church. The congregation of about 50 worships in a

Layers of pigeon droppings had to be scraped from the pews in June when the last service was held. It was a first Communion for children from Christopher's primary school. Eileen Moran, the head, said: "The church is vandalised and the precious things, the mosaics, the leaded windows and

community centre.

removed.

"It was once the centre of the community and now its doors are locked and the broken windows boarded up. We would love to see part of it for the use of the community and reopened as a living church

St Mary's was designed by George Goldie and completed in 1878. Pevsner's The King's England praises the building pulpit and Chapel of the

The church's decline was triggered when Middlesbrough's new cathedral, also dedicated to St Mary, was built at Coulby Newham in 1986. Residents say the depredation has been accelerating since the resident priest, Father Peter Keeling, left almost two years ago. ian Stubbs, chairman of St

Hilda's Partnership, a local regeneration agency, has been dismayed by the vandalism Precious mosaics, decorated

panels, candlesticks and vases have disappeared. A presidential chair and wooden angels were stolen the night before Mr Stubbs led a team into the church to save anything of

Property has been recovered from Darlington and one

dumps," he said. "Nobody is telling anybody who lives and works in the community what Earlier this month Dr Rory

O'Donnell, an English Heritage inspector, wrote to the diocese describing the buildthe Church to use it for worship again.

The diocese has been trying to sell the property for five years and one project to devel-op it for offices fell through only recently. Monsignor Charlton hopes that talks with new developers to turn the

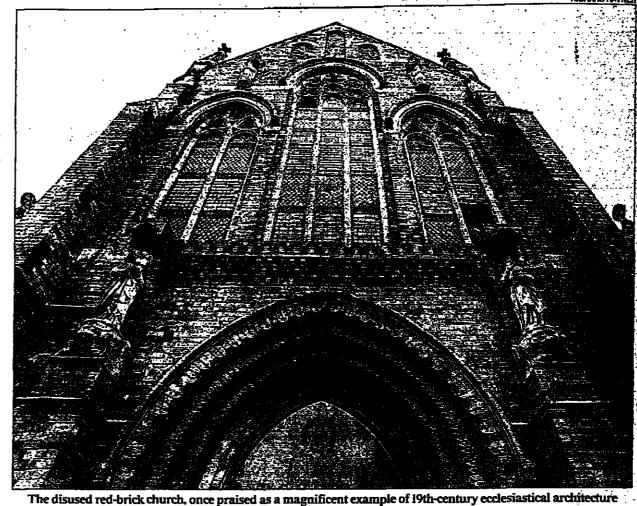
commodation, training and education centre for young people may succeed. A chapel for the community would be

He said: "To infer that there was a deliberate policy, on behalf of the trustees, to allow the building to fall into disre-

included.

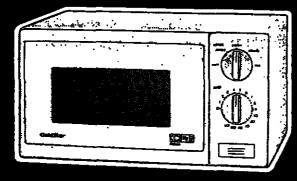
demolition order is manifestly

"It is alleged that we have not done enough and that is particularly hurtful. We have been trying to find an alternative use for a listed building and that is particularly difficult, particularly for a large



of the cathedral is due to

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Michelin honours Irish restaurant

BY ROBIN YOUNG

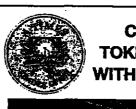
FOR the first time a restaurant meal in Ireland is "worth a detour", according to the 1996 edition of the Michelin Guide, published today. The book promotes two restaurants to its two-star rating, Pied à Terre in Bloomsbury, central London, and Patrick Guilbaud in Dublin. The latter wins the first two star.

rating in Ireland. The premotion of Pied a Terre, a 12-table respirant specialising in gournand food at prices from £22 for a three-course lunch to £48 for a four-course dinner, puts Richard Neat on the same rating as his mentor, Raymond Blanc, at Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, near Oxford, ments to have two stars. There are four restaurants with three stars: they are un-

changed from last year. Seventeen additional onestar awards increase the total to 68, while the number of restaurants with Red Ms, which indicate consistent care and attention to meals, rises by 25 to a total of 93. Derek Brown, the guide's editor, said yesterday: "On average, standards throughout the ho-

The guide now includes recommendations for 4,886 hotels and 1,083 restaurants. New one-star awards

Greenhouse, Interlude de Chavetand L'Escargot, centrai London; Northcote Manor. Blackburn: Humstret House, Bristol: Fleur de Sel Haslemere, Surrey: Box Tree. likley. West Yorkshire: Pool Court at 42, Leeds; Merchant House, Ludiow, Shrooshire Lovells at Windrush Farm. Minster Lovell Oxfordshire Snarrow Bay Country House Ullswater. Cumbria; Llangoed Hall, Llyswen, Powys; One Devonshire Gardens, Glasgow: Shanks, Bangor, Co Down: Broome's, St Aubin, Jersey: Shiro, Ahakista, Co Cork; Thornton's. Dublin. ☐ Michelin Red Guide to Great



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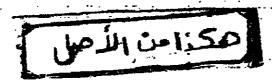
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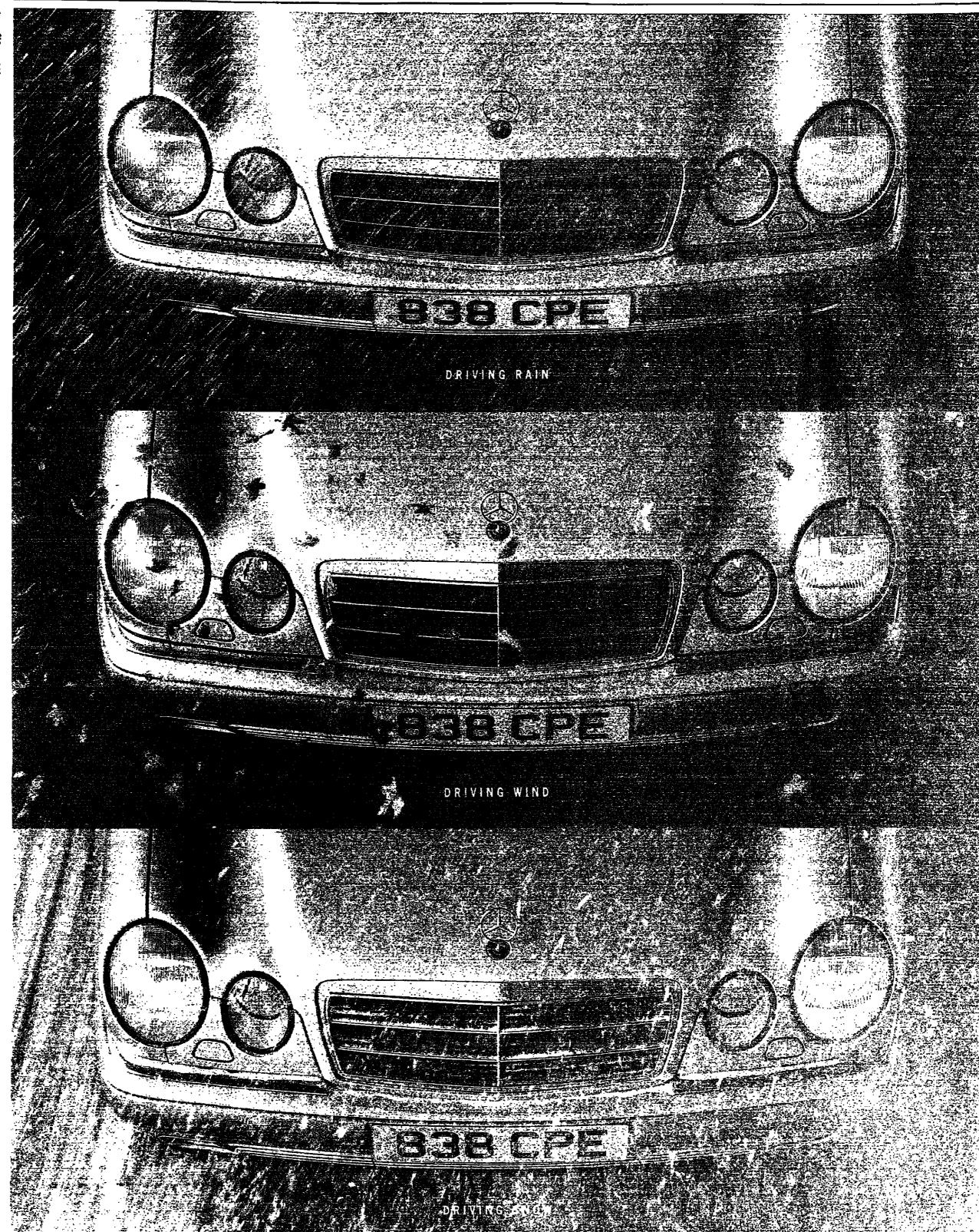
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Commission convinced that paramilitaries will never surrender weapons before talks begin

Compromise is the only way ahead, says Mitchell

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

DESTRUCTION of terrorist weapons should take place during all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland, the report of the international body set up by the British and

Irish governments says. The report, from the threeman team chaired by George Mitchell, the former US senator, says its proposal is a compromise intended to break the impasse in the quest for a lasting peace in the Province.

The report, which calls on all parties to affirm their commitment to six "fundamental principles of democracy and non-violence", says the deadlock over decommissioning has obscured the widespread agreement that already exists in Northern Ireland: "Members of both traditions may be less far apart on the resolution of their differences than they believe. No one should underestimate the value of a consensus for peace, and the fact that no significant group is actively seeking to end it."

The dispute over decommissioning is a "symptom of a larger problem: the absence of trust. But a resolution of the decommissioning issue ... will not be found if the parties resort to their vast inventories of historical recrimination.

Or, as it was put to us several times, what is really needed is a decommissioning of mind-sets in Northern Ireland."

The report makes detailed recommendations on the arrangements for decommissioning illegally held weapons and suggests further confidence-building measures.

☐ Decommissioning On the key issue of decommis-

sioning paramilitary arsenals, the report says: "We have concluded that there is a clear commitment on the part of those in possession of such arms to work constructively to achieve full and verifiable decommissioning as part of

the process of all-party negotiations. But that commitment does not include decommissioning prior to such negotia-

"We have concluded that the paramilitary organisations will not decommission any arms prior to all-party negotiations. That was the unanimous and emphatically expressed view of the representatives of the political parties close to paramilitary organisations on both sides. It was also the view of the vast majority of the organisations and individuals who made oral and written submissions.

THE SIX PRINCIPLES

The report lays down six principles of non-violence and democracy. All parties should commit themselves to: ☐ Democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues. The total disarmament of

all paramilitary organisa-☐ Agree that such disarma-

ment must be verifiable by an independent commission. ☐ Renounce for themselves. and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threaten to use force, to influence

it was not that they are all

opposed to prior decommis-

☐ Agree to abide by the terms of any agreement reached in all-party negotiations and to resort to democratic and exclusively peaceful methods in trying to alter any aspect with which they disagree.

all-party negotiations.

Urge that punishment killings and beatings stop and to take effective steps to prevent such actions.

sioning. To the contrary, many favour it. But they are convinced it will not happen. That is the reality with which all concerned must deal."

in a reference to the position of the British Government, it says: "We were told that the clearest demonstration of adherence to democratic principles is the safe removal and disposal of paramilitary arms, and that at this time only a start to decommissioning will provide the confidence necessary for all-party negotiations to commence."

But this was not acceptable Sinn Fein, the SDLP, the Irish Government and the loyalist paramilitaries.

We were told that decommissioning prior to all-party negotiations was not requested before the announcement of the ceasefires, and that had it been, there would have been no ceasefires; that those who entered into the ceasefires did so in the belief that they would lead immediately to all-party negotiations.

The report says that each side of the argument reflects a "core of reasonable concern" that should be appreciated by the other. "Those who insist on prior decommissioning need to be reassured that the commitment to peaceful and dem-

General John de Chastelain, left, George Mitchell and Harri Holkeri at the launch of their report yesterday in Belfast

ocratic means by those formerly supportive of politically motivated violence is genuine and irreversible, and that the threat or use of such violence will not be invoked to influence the process of negotiations or to change any agreed settlement. Those who have

been persuaded to abandon violence for the peaceful political path need to be reassured that a meaningful and inclusive process of negotiation is genuinely being offered to address the legitimate concerns of their traditions and the need for new political

arrangements with which all The parties should consider an approach under which some decommissioning would

take place during the process of all-party negotiations, rather than before or after as the parties now urge. Such an approach represents a compromise. If the peace process is to move forward, the current impasse must be overcome." The report says that adherence to six principles would create the climate in which all-party talks could proceed.

These commitments, when made and honoured, would remove the threat of force before, during and after allparty negotiations. They would focus all concerned on what is ultimately essential if the gun is to be taken out of irish politics: an agreed political settlement and the total

and verifiable disarmament of

all paramilitary organ-

Weapons disposal
The commission advises on the practicalities of destroying weapons. The report's first

the decommissioning prosuggest neither lear. It says that the IRA and loyalist ceasefires are products not surrender but rather of a willingness to address differ-

ences through political means". Decommissioning should take place to the satisfaction of an independent commission, which would be appointed by the British and Irish governments after consultations

with all par-

ties. The com-

mission would recrimination' operate independently in both countries and would enjoy "appropriate legal status and immunity. The report says that such a commission should be able to draw on independent sources of legal and technical advice and adequate resources to receive and audit armaments and to observe and verify the decommissioning process. It would also be able to call upon the assistance of the British and Irish armies.

Decommissioning should result in the complete destruction of armaments in a manner that contributes to public safety. Techniques would include cutting up or chipping of small arms and other weapons and the controlled explosion of ammunition and explosives.
Four methods are suggested

for the removal of weapons: arms could be handed to the commission or designated representatives of either government for destruction; information on the whereabouts of weapons could be passed to the commission or government representatives; arms could be deposited in an agreed location for collection by the commission or government representatives: parties should also have the option of destroying their own weapons. The report says that the decommissioning process should be "fully verifiable" by the appointed commission.

☐ Amnesties Decommissioning should not

expose individuals to prosecution. The report says: "Individ-uals involved in the decommissioning process should not be prosecuted for the possession of those armaments; amnesties should be established in law in both

jurisdictions. "Armaments made available for decommissioning, whether directly or indirectly. should be exempt under law from forensic examination. and information obtained as a result of the decommissioning process should be inadmissible as evidence in courts of law in either jurisdiction."

☐ Confidence building The report says decommis-sioning should take place "on the basis of the mutual commitment and participation of the paramilitary organisations", and goes beyond its strict remit to offer comments on further confidence building

measures. it says that the 'early termi-nation or paramilitary activities, including surveillance and targeting, would demonstrate a commitment to peace-

methods and so build trust among parties anxieties of the general population". Information on the fate of missing persons and the return of those forced to leave their communities would also help. Further moves by the Government to

release terror-

ist prisoners would bolster

trust, as would

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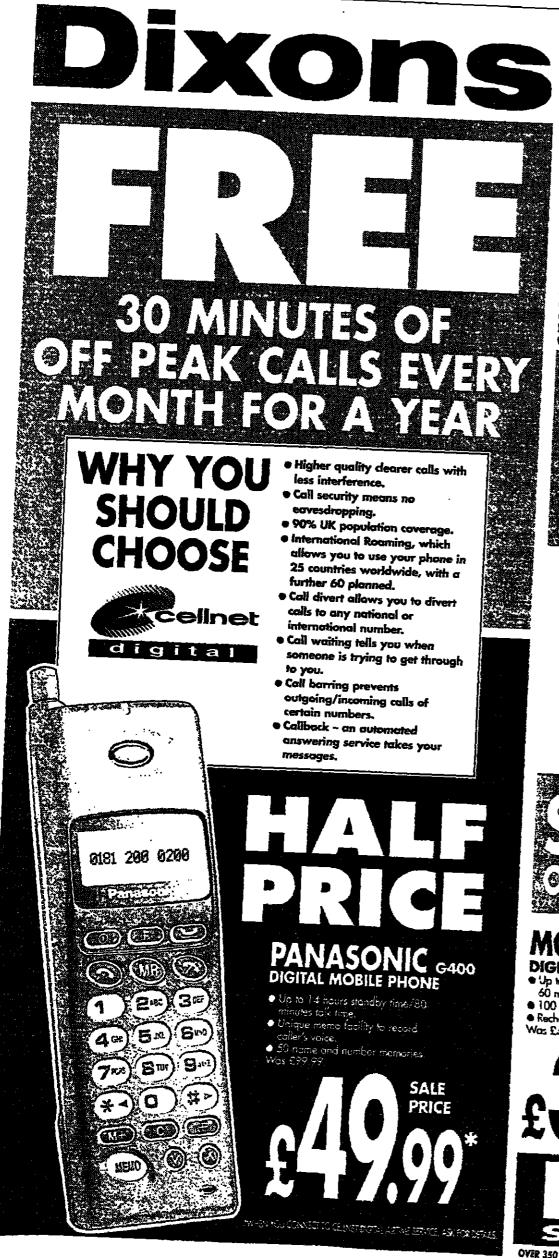
'A resolution will not be found if the parties resort to their vast inventories of historical

> Sinn Fein pressure for deing to be extended to weapons held by British troops in Ulster. There is no equivacommissionlence between such weapons and those held by the security forces. However, in the context of building mutual confidence. we welcome the commitment of the governments ... to continue to take responsive measures, advised by their security authorities, as the

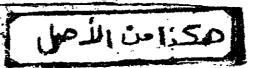
threat reduces." The report goes on: "We share the hope ... that policing in Northern Ireland can be normalised as soon as the security situation permits. A review of the situation with respect to legally registered weapons and the use of plastic bullets, and continued progress toward more balanced representation in the police force would contribute to the building of trust."
In a reference to the Ulster

Unionist call for an elected assembly as a forum for allparty talks, the report says: "Several oral and written submissions raised the idea of an elected body. We note the reference in the Communique [issued by the two governments in November 1995 to how an elected body could play a part. Elections held in accordance with democratic principles express and reflect the popular will. If it were broadly acceptable, with an appropriate mandate and within the three-strand structure, an elective process could contribute to the building of confidence.

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Election plan cools early welcome for peace blueprint

By Nicholas Watt, ireland correspondent

appointed, but not surprised, that the international commis-

sion backed away from calling

on terrorists to decommission

some of their arms before

talks. In a statement, the party underlined its disagree-

ment with the report's main

finding by pointing out that a

recent opinion in the Belfast

Telegraph showed that 83 per

cent of people in Northern

Ireland wanted terrorists to

The Democratic Unionists

- the only mainstream polit-

ical party to refuse to meet the

commission — rejected the report out of hand. Peter

Robinson, the party's deputy leader, said: "If one puts all

the ingredients for fudge into

the pot then that is exactly

what will come out. Those who proposed the setting up of this commission now look

rather ridiculous set beside the

failure of the body to extract

one bullet from terrorist

organisations."

JOHN MAJOR's proposal to hold elections in Northern Ireland drew a cool response last night from the Irish Government, which remains deeply sceptical of establishing an elected body in Northern Ireland.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, who spoke to Mr Major yesterday, pointedly remarked that the body was one issue which London and Dublin had agreed to discuss in their "twin-track process". As Sinn Fein accused Mr Major of "dumping" the process, Mr Bruton underlined in interior with British in the state of the

cess, Mr Bruton underlined his irritation with Britain by saying that the Mitchell Commission had said that an elected body would have to meet strict criteria.

Speaking in Dublin, Mr

Bruton said: "The Mitchell report said that an elected body could play a useful part if it was broadly acceptable to both nationalists and Unionists, if it had an appropriate mandate and if it respected the three-stranded approach." This would mean that Dublin would have to be given a role in the assembly.

The Taoiseach added that Unionists would have to persuade nationalists of the merits of the body. He added: "The important thing I want to stress is ... to establish that Unionists and nationalists are partners in a joint endeavour. They will only achieve that if they sit down together."

The Irish Government has been deeply sceptical of the Ulster Unionist plans for an assembly. Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, recently described David Trimble's idea as "deeply flawed".

Dublin shares the concerns of the SDLP and Sinn Fein that an elected body would hand Unionists a veto over political developments in Northern Ireland. They believe that an assembly in Northern Ireland should be established only as a result of an agreement reached at all-party talks. They fear that Mr Major's proposals would amount to an internal settlement in Northern Ireland.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein tary organisations".

Ulster Unionists were dis-

Mr Major's proposals, accusing the Prime Minister of "dumping" the Anglo-Irish twin-track process. In a terse statement issued in Belfast, Mr Adams said: "The Mitchell report was the conclusion of one track of the twin track which was set up to move us all into all-party talks by the end of February. In his reaction to this John Major has effectively dumped the twintrack process. He is quite clearly acting in bad faith by swapping one precondition to

all-party talks for another."
In an echo of John Hume's comments in the House of Commons, the Sinn Fein president added: "John Major has now adopted an entirely Unionist agenda in an attempt to buy Unionist votes at Westminster."

It was left to Bertie Ahern, the leader of the main opposition Fianna Fail party, to express the anger felt in Dublin last night at Mr Majors comments. He said that he regretted that even before the ink had dried on the Mitchell report Mr Major had, in effect, rejected its findings.

The angry nationalist response to the elected body contrasted with upbeat comments earlier in the day from across the political spectrum. Hopes had been raised that the Mitchell Commission would break the deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process when Unionists and Sinn Fein gave he report a surprisingly favourable reaction.

Mr Adams had sounded an upbeat note when he said within minutes of the report's publication that it provided a basis for moving forward.

David Trimble, the leader of

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, was more circumspect, but he was heartened by the recommendations that political parties should sign up to six principles.

The MP for Upper Bann took heart that the first two principles called on parties to commit themselves to "democratic and exclusively peaceful means" and to the "total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations".



Adams, top left accused Major of dumping the twin-track process. Spring: believes an assembly is flawed; Robinson: report "a fudge"; Trimble: heartened by the six principles

Trimble scores personal victory

By Our Ireland Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR's proposal to establish an elected body in Northern Ireland is a personal triumph for David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader.

Within weeks of his election as party leader last September the MP for Upper Bann called on the Government to break the deadlock in the peace process by establishing such a body. Mr Trimble pledged that if Sinn Fein stood in elections his party would talk to republicans across the floor of the elected body before the IRA had decommissioned its

Unionist sources talked of the body as a "bribe" to join all-party talks. Some sources initially thought that Mr Major would reject the proposal and they were even planning to draw up alternative proposals.

The Ulster Unionist leadership, who were delighted that Mr Trimble's proposal was included in last November's Anglo-Irish communique, have gone to great lengths to reassure nationalists about their plan.

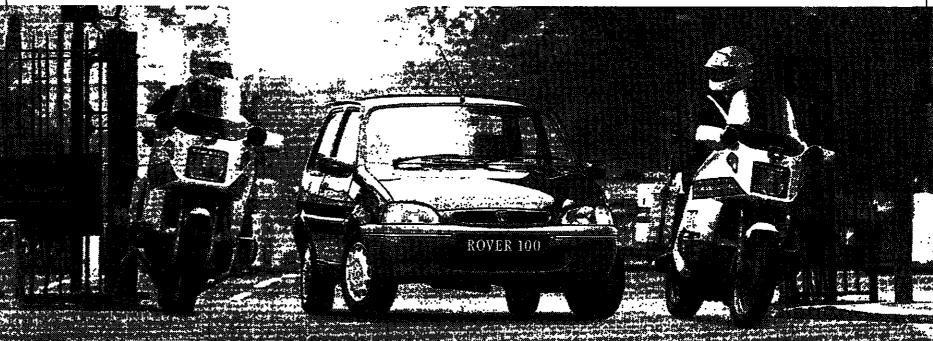
Mr Trimble talks of an elected body and refuses to describe his plan as an assem-

bly. He is aware that nationalists fear a return to the "bad old days" of a Unionist-dominated assembly at Stormont. He also says that the assembly would have a time limit of two years and says that it would have relations with the Irish Republic.

Under his initial plans each of Northern Ireland's 18 parliamentary constituencies would elect five people to the assembly, creating a body of 90 members. However, it is understood that the Government has tried to allay nationalist fears by limiting the body to 45 members.

That would mean grouping

That would mean grouping the parliamentary constituencies into twos. The larger constituencies would then elect five members to the body. Ulster Unionists are not keen on plans to limit the size of the body. They point out that it would make it much more difficult for smaller parties, particularly the fringe loyalist parties, to win seats. However, one UUP source said that the party might be prepared to compromise by supplementing the 45 members with Northern Ireland's MPs and MEPs.



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Major's feel for a risk continues to defy doubters

JOHN HUME's bluff was che called yesterday and he did not like it. The leader of the SDLP has for long enjoyed an international standing as the man of peace in Northern Ireland. His word has been accepted almost without challenge in Dublin, Washington and, until 18 months ago, by

much of the Labour Party.
Yet in private, British
ministers, and many politicians of all parties in Northern Ireland, have been
increasingly irritated by his
approach, in particular
since his close association
with Gerry Adams of Sinn
Fein in their

joint peace initiative Mr Hume is accused of being trapped by Mr Adams, of parties. I

cused of being trapped by Mr Adams, of all the time wanting to see Sinn Fein rewarded with a place in all-party talks even if it makes no commitments on decommissioning.

The Prime Minister and his advisers have seen Seamus Mallon, Mr Hume's senior SDLP colleague, as both more reliable and more representative of views across the nationalist community. These feelings have remained largely hidden until now, but yesterday the mask slipped.

mask slipped.
John Major had seized the initiative over the Mitchell Commission's report by proposing the early establishment of an elected body as a means of bringing all parties together. This is intended as a confidence-building measure as part of the cross-party talks. The body would not have a legislative role and would not be like the previous Northern Ireland assemblies which the nationalists disliked. The SDLP, and in particular Mr Hume, has viewed such elections as a side issue and as a block to early all-party talks involving Sinn Fein. His angry and personal criticism of the plan, including the

charge of "buying votes" to stay in power, infuriated the Tories. Mr Major let slip some of his pent-up feelings about Mr Hume in an impassioned reply, talking about "a tragedy of enormous proportions" if a barrier was put up at this stage to progress towards peace in Northern Ireland.

peace in Northern Ireland.

By contrast, Mr Major's tone was more of regret over the less personal criticisms from Mr Mallon. The Prime Minister almost pleaded to him, as an ally in the long peace initiative, to support elections as a means of moving the initia-

tive forward.
Otherwise.
Mr Major received backing from all

parties. Tony Blair made a point of emphasising Labour's bipartisan approach. The only limited dissent came from the SDLP's close Labour allies such as Kevin McNamara.

The SDLP's stance, as much as Sinn Fein's, will obviously be crucial to the success of the electoral proposal. And last night both were highly critical. But as Mr Major argued, with the backing of the Labour unionist Kate Hoey, it is hard for any party to portray elections as an

The key to the peace initiative is maintaining momentum. It is a world where there is no perfect or permanent solution. The last hope of that probably went in 1885-86 with the collapse of Giadstone's first Home Rule proposal. All that politicians can hope to do is to contain most of the disagreements within an agreed political framework of discussion. Mr Major yesterday again showed a commitment and a willingness to take risks which has defied both his critics and the doubters over the past two years.

PETER RIDDELL

Major's tenure curtails rise in standard of living

THE gap between rich and poor, which widened during the Thatcherite 1980s, has remained almost constant during the economic slow-

down of the Major years. Coming to a rather more abrupt halt is the seemingly relentless rise in single parenthood, to the surprise of statisticians.

Social Trends, the 248-page book of official statistics published today, will make comforting reading for a Prime Minister who declared he wanted a nation Tat ease with itself". Carol Summerfield, associate editor of the book, said people were now *getting better qualified, taking early re-tirement and holidaying abroart"

The poorest 10 per cent have seen their household's disposable income remain steady since the start of the 1970s from the equivalent of just below £100 in 1971 to just over £100 in 1993.

The richest 10 per cent enjoyed a sharp rise from INCOME AND SPENDING

Reports by DOMINIC KENNEDY

about 1200 a week in the early 1980s to more than £450 when Mr Major entered Downing Street. Their incomes have risen tittle since in real terms.

For the country as a whole. real household disposable income rose by 45 per cent on average from 1971 to 1990. The proportion of births

outside marriage, which has increased from 5 per cent in 1960 to about 30 per cent, has also stopped climbing. "It seemed to be going inexorably upwards for the past 20 years or so," said Jenny Church, Social Trends' Editor, "then there was virtually no change between 1993 and 1994. It is too early to say whether that was a temporary phenomenon but certainly the rate of in-

crease slowed right down."
The average British household spends £2.05 a week on under half the amount spent on cigarenes and less than l per cent of total weekly expenditure.

The fastest-growing items of household spending, nearly quadrupling between 1971 and 1994, were tourism abroad and monetary services including life assurance and pension fund contributions.

UK tourists in foreign countries spent an average £363 per visit, about £32 a day, Spain has regained from France its position as the most popular destination for foreign holidays.

Ownership of colour televisions has almost reached saturation point at 97 per cent of households, compared with telephones (9) per cent), washing machines (89 per cent) fridges and freezers (88 per cent), microwave ovens (67 per cent) and tumble dryers (50

Home computers were found in 48 per cent of families with children compared with only o per cent of homes where a person lived

Compact disc players and dishwashers were also more prevalent in households with

Social Trends looked closely at cohabitation, which is much more acceptable to the younger generation than to their parents or grandparents. Only o per cent of women under 35 feel that living together is wrong, compared with 34 per cent of women over 64. Men are slightly more inclined to disapprove. Figures show that, in a year.

16 per cent of cohabitating women marry their man. Another 9 per cent of unmarried partnerships break up. Fifty per cent of cohabitations last 2.7 years or less. Sixty per

REAL HOUSEHOLD DISPOSABLE INCOME* POOR

1974 - 1976

cent of women who cohabit

trends is the lengthening of the

education and post-work re-tirement phases of our lives."

Ms Summerfield said. More

than 50 per cent of three and

four-year-olds are at school,

compared with 20 per cent 25

There has been a spectacu-

lar increase of more than 40

ner cent in the number of full-

vears ago.

"One of the most striking

have never been married.

time students in further or

years to 1993-94 Students tend to have very different spending priorities from the rest of the population. After housing, the second highest category was enter-tainment — at about £23 a week this was almost 50 per cent higher than on food. More than half of that went on

women students tended to

spend more than men on clothes

higher education in the three Just over 50 per cent of men aged 60-64 were economically active in 1994 compared with 80 per cent in 1971. "Retirement is these days more likely to be seen as a period in which to enjoy the fruits of life rather than as the beginning of dependence." Ms Summeralcohol and tobacco, although

☐ Social Trends (Stationery Office, £35.95)

Men leave household chores to partners

THEHOME

WOMEN are still lumbered with the largest share of household chores. They spend more time than men on cooking, housework and shopping, even if they have full-time

Almost eight in ten women say that they always or usually do the washing or ironing seen by many as among the worst jobs around the house. The survey also found that 50 per cent of women are left to decide what to have for dinner, with the decision being

shared in 35 per cent of cases. Men are more likely to help with shopping for groceries, which is a shared task for 52 per cent. Three out of four couples say that repairs around the house are done by the man.

Men also spend longer at work and travelling to work. Their total on average is 53

hours a week. The report reveals that on average, an adult has five hours of free time on weekdays and eight hours' free time each day at weekends. However, even at weekends, women's free time is two hours less than men's.

Watching the television or listening to the radio remain the most popular way to pass free time, with an average 19 hours a week spent in this

Only three hours a week are spent reading, says the survey. This is the same amount of time spent on going out for meals or drinks

Men are more likely than women to participate in sports and physical activities, but the gap has narrowed over time. Participation decreases with

Compact discs sold more than 100 million copies as vinyl LPs slumped. CDs accounted for two-thirds of trade deliveries of alburns in 1994 while LPs

> 3 рет сепt. The market share of CD singles increased from 6 per cent of all singles in 1989 to more than 47 per cent in 1994, while 7in singles fell from 61 per cent to 7 per cent.

fell from nearly 90 per

cent in 1973 to just under

IN BRIEF

CD boom

signals

swansong

for vinyl

Women are more likely to buy cassette tapes while men are more loyal to vinyl. Pop is the favourite type of recorded music, followed by rock.

Stitch in time

Only 3 per cent of men said they did dressmak-ing, needlework or knitting. The number of women who carry out DIY has grown by 30 per cent. Men would rather watch television (99 per cent), see friends (95) listen to the radio (91), do gardening (51) or DIY (57). Watching television is equally popular with women and men.

Hidden crime

Recorded crime rates vary country. In 1994 there were more than 15 recorded notifiable offences for every 100 people in Humberside, compared with four in Northern Ireland. Many offences are never reported to police. Aimost half of wounding offences and a third of domestic burglaries go unreported.

Dental habits

About half of all adults go to the dentist for regular check-ups but attendance varies with class and socio-economic grouping. Almost two thirds of professional people go regu-larly, compared with less than two fifths of unskilled manual workers. Women's attendance at the dentist is considerably higher than men's.

Smokers down

The number of cigarette smokers continues to decline. In 1972, 52 per cent of men smoked compared with 28 per cent last year. There has also been a reduction in the number smoking middle-tar cigarettes, down from 40 per cent in 1986 to 2 per cent last year. This is partly because manufacturers have reduced tar yield.

Church change

Congregations at mainstream churches have fallen by about 25 per cent since 1970 but the Orthodox and the smaller free churches are growing and membership of "non-Trinitarian" groups such as the Mormons has risen by 75 per cent. Four in ten people say that religious belief plays no part in

Elderly take note of diet messages

FOOD AND EXERCISE

THE elderly eat better than the young. Social Trends re-ports that 16 to 24-year-olds are less likely to eat fruit, vegetables and salad regularly and are more prone to eating confectionery and taking sugar in coffée.

High-fibre cereals and wholemeal bread are most popular among the 65 to 74year-olds, while skimmed and semi-skimmed milk are a favourite for two thirds of people aged 45 to 64. The elderly are more likely. though, to add salt in cooking and to use solid fat.

Changes in diet since the early 1970s suggest Britons may be taking note of healthyeating messages. Less red meat is eaten while poultry is growing in popularity. Only three fifths as much butter was eaten in 1994 as in 1986, and consumption of low and reduced-fat spreads increased almost two and a half times.

Britons ate 13 per cent more fresh fruit in 1994 than in 1971. On a less healthy note, consumption of fresh vegetables fell by 10 per cent while processed vegetables increased by more than half.

Almost three fifths of men and just under half of women aged 16 and over were overweight or obese. Obesity was most prevalent among those aged 55 to 64 A quarter of over-los in England have had at least one cardiovascular condition related to weight roblems. Most common was high blood pressure, found in 10 per cent of women and 8 per

cent of men. Britons cycled 4 billion kilometres in 1994, a fifth of the distance cycled in 1994. Walking was by far the most popular sporting activity among the elderly. A third of men over 70 walked. Some sports were the preserve of youth. No men over 70 chose

football as a sporting activity. Men are over four times as likely as women to play cue sports such as snooker, pool and billiards, or to choose golf. Women are more likely to take part in keep fit or yoga.

Swimming running and jogging were more popular with non-manual workers. darts and cue sports with manual workers.

People in Wales have the best access to sports centres and swimming pools. Greater London has the lowest provision for sport in England, the East Midlands the highest.



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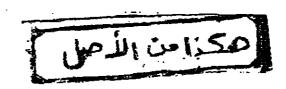
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MPs in search of a show trial are disappointed as leader's plea for party unity succeeds

Harman's ordeal falls short of lurid expectations

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS billed as the execution highly charged meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party never quite turned into the show trial expected yesterday. A passionate speech from Tony Blair calling for party

unity proved enough to turn the tables, demonstrating yet again his hold over the party.
At 11.20am the first MPs started drifting into Room 14 on Westminster's committee corridor, grim-faced and baying for Ms Harman's blood.

There was talk of MPs de-

manding a vote to seal her

fate. One said: "If she doesn't resign, I will." At 11.28 a tense Ms Harman turned up, flanked by Henry McLeish and Alan Milburn, members of her health team. She had spent part of the morning visiting her daughter's school, where the child was playing the cello in her

first public performance. At 11.30 Tony Blair walked in, smiling nervously. Most of the Shadow Cabinet had al-

ready taken their places. Officials had said that MPs were evenly divided into those for and against Ms Harman and it was clear from the start that the meeting would be antagonistic, with three MPs. Paul Flynn. Alice Mahon and Clive Soley, calling for her to

Many of the ten backbenchers who spoke deliberately did not mention her name but agreed that the party should unite over the issue. Michael Martin. MP for Glasgow Springburn. insisted that there was no justification for Ms Harman's decision to send her child to a grammar school. He had been faced with the same choice and had sent his children to his local comprehensive. If he wasn't allowed to send his child to the best school, why was she, he demanded.

Clive Soley, MP for Ham-mersmith, called for her resignation, arguing that she had to accept collective Shadow

Cabinet responsibility. He said that the Tories and the press would continue to exploit the dispute unless she

stepped down.

Mr Soley went on to defend his own education at an innercity school where violence and bullying were the norm. "I came away with the ability to cope with life in a way that people in protected schools do

Roy Hattersley, the former deputy Labour leader, also criticised Ms Harman but did not openly call for her to resign. He urged to party to campaign on its commitment to comprehensive education saying it was vital to kill any idea that the party was revising its policy.

Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, alienated many of



Soley: called for Harman's resignation



Grant surprising

Ms Harman's critics when he turned on Mr Blair, criticising him for sending his son to the grant-maintained London Oratory. He attacked the "golden circle" around the leader and accused him of going against the principles of the party.

His attack made several MPs wince with embarrassment and helped to change the mood of the meeting. They were out to get Ms Harman, not Mr Blair.

Other speakers capitalised on Mr Flynn's error of judgment. Gerald Kaufman called on the party to unite against the Tories and George Howarth said that other MPs would face similar difficult decisions. But the most surprising person to support Ms Harman was Bernie Grant, the MP for Tottenham. He railed against the standards of schools in his constituency and across London, regretting having sent his children to local schools.

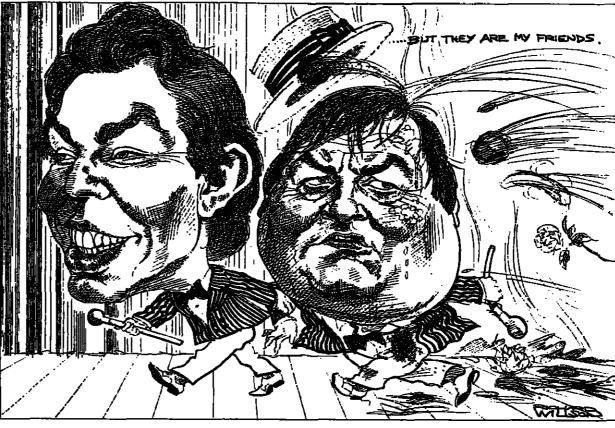
"I understand that people want the best for their children," he said. "London schools are a disgrace. They were bad under Labour but now they are rotten."

In an emotional five-minute speech, Ms Harman apologised for the trouble she had caused the party. "I deeply regret that any decision I have taken has given any succour to the Tories and any opportunifor them to attack the Labour Party," she said.

MPs gave her a sympathetic round of applause but many were not convinced by her apologies. "It was pitiful," said

It was left to Mr Blair to rescue her. In an emotional speech he called for the party to "pull together". It was enough. The MPs left the meeting singing his praises. They had almost forgotten Ms Harman. "She could have been Fred West's accomplice and we would still have supported him," one MP said.

Leading article, page 19



Double act with Prescott that Blair can ill afford to harm

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

ordon Brown and Robin Cook may be the brains in the Labour leadership, but John Prescott is much more than its brawn. Without him Tony Blair would be able to achieve little, and no one knows it better than the Labour leader. As the Harriet Harman

crisis began to subside yesterday, yet again the deputy leader's value to Mr Blair was underlined. It is an open secret at Westminster that the occasionally fiery Mr Prescott is deeply unhappy at the events of the past few days.

First of all he was not told in advance the news, known only to a handful of leadership friends, that Harriet Harman was to send her son to a grammar school. Then through error rather than a conspiracy - he was not told of the plan to leak it to selected newspapers last Friday to preempt what would have been more damaging coverage in the weekend press, leaving him flat-footed when giving radio interviews on other matters on Saturday morning. When he did learn about it he was appalled at what Ms Harman had done. He did not semi-publicly call her a reports have claimed, but he was less than complimentary about his colleague.

It was not the first time that Mr Prescott had been left "out of the loop". He was not a recipient of the notorious Philip Gould memo — suggesting that Labour was not yet fit for government - which was leaked during last year's TUC conference: nor was he at the New Forest gathering of Blair friends and media experts last year, leading to claims that he

had been excluded.

It would be no surprise to learn that Mr Prescott, along with an overwhelming majority of the parliamentary party. would prefer Ms Harman to resign. Had he rebelled against Mr Blair's decision to

had much of the party behind him. But Mr Prescott knew that was precisely the outcome desired by the Government. A split between the Labour leader and his deputy is the golden scenario over which most Tories drool. Mr Prescott's stony expression in the Commons on Tuesday raised their hopes that he was close to breaking point.

e swiftly realised. however, that the L survival or otherwise of Ms Harman had become the battle that Mr Blair could not afford to lose. It had been elevated into the crucial test of new Labour, if Ms Harman had to go for exercising her choice as a parent, old Labour would triumph and Mr Blair would be severely, perhaps fatally, wounded.

So Mr Prescott, being the party trooper that he is, swallowed his deep reservations and went along with his

leader. The two had a lengthy chat on Tuesday after Question Time before Mr Blair's strategy of backing Ms Harman took shape. Thereafter he was on board and the crisis began to ease. Mr Prescott was by Mr Blair's side as he told his MPs that he would not yield Ms Harman's scalp. In his own contribution later he could not bring himself to mention Ms Harman but his message was clear: "Let's put it behind us."

The MP Gerald Kaufman has observed the relationship grow. "John has a genuine loyalty to Tony - it is striking." he said.

Mr Prescott has admitted

privately that in spite of his initial misgivings Mr Blair was right to abandon the Clause Four commitment to nationalisation. Mr Blair would not have accomplished that change without him. The leadership will be wary of straining Mr Prescott's loyalty

Tories try to keep up the pressure

By James Landale

HARRIET HARMAN took her fight for political survival hitting back at Tory MPs in a

debate on the health service.
Undaunted by persistent heckling from the Tory benches, the Shadow Health Secre-tary attacked the Government for its creeping privatisation of the NHS. She said ministers had ignored what she called the "crisis" in healthcare provision that was forcing hospitals to turn away the sick.

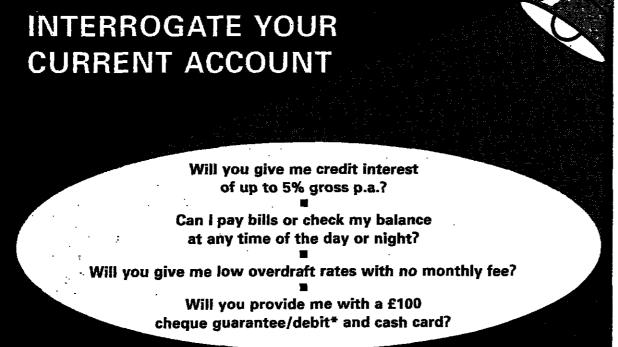
She responded to Tory MPs interventions about the grammar school row by telling them that they should be more interested in the NHS than in "making cheap points". She condemned the increase in the number of managers and bureaucrats in the NHS combined with cuts in the number of nurses. The NHS is becoming less and less and public service and more and more a private business run on the basis of cost, not of need." she said.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, praised Ms Harman for supporting diversity and choice in education. The reason Ms Harman is right and virtually all her colleagues on her own back benches are wrong is that she has shown by her actions that she endorses the principles and values of a free and open society," he said.

That is important in the world of education and equally important in the world of

YESTERDAY in the Commons: back-bench debates; education and employ-ment questions; Labour-initiated debate on the National Health Service. In the on the National Health Service. In the Lords: opportunities in the proposed free trade area of the Americas; motor sport industry, Companies Act (Miscelfaneous Accounting Amendments) Regulations; Financial Services Act (Investment Services) (Extension of Scope of Act) Order. Voes) (Extension of scope or Act) Order.

TODAY in the Commons questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; Finance Bill, committee stages, the Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Bill, remaining stages, in the Lords: Family Law Bill, committee stage; International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Immunities and Phillipse) Order: International Sea-Bed Authority



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Santer tells euro doubters 'the clock cannot be stopped'

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

JACOUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, tried vesterday to silence the growing chorus of doubt over European monetary union but had to compete with new questions over the project from senior French and Spanish politicians.

"It is irresponsible to sow doubts" on its fate, said M Santer at the close of a threeday conference called by the Commission to launch a publicity campaign for the birth. 36 months away, of the curo.

M Santer took issue with Carlos Westendorp, the Spanish Foreign Minister and a leading figure in European affairs, for a suggestion it might be preferable to "stop the clock" and delay the 1999 deadline set in the Maastricht treary until Britain, Spain and Italy could join the single currency. "Stopping the clocks will not prevent the 21st century arriving." said M Santer.

monumental new European Parliament building in Brussels, merely echoed comments heard around the Continent. But his words stung because he has played a central role in the Union in recent months as chairman of the Reflection Group that prepared the ground for the forthcoming Maastricht treaty review.

M Santer and his team were also taken aback yesterday by a suggestion from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President and fervent pro-European, that the treaty's terms could be bent to allow the curo a painless birth on time. M Giscard said the Maastricht criteria on economic convergence should be massaged to take account of the slowdown threatening the EMU calendar.

M Santer welcomed all ideas but said that nothing should get in the way of the Maastricht text.

M Giscard d'Estaing's pro-His reference to a "credibil-Madrid disclaimer

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

Spanish Foreign Minister, attempted yesterday to limit the fall-out from his doubts about the European Union's ability to launch a single currency by January 1999. In the process. however, he insisted that the plan for economic and monetary union (EMU) was immersed in a credibility crisis".

Señor Westendorp claimed that he had been quoted out of context by his Government's own news agency. Efe, when he said that "stopping the clock" might be the only way of meeting the deadline for introducing the euro.

The position of the Spanish Government in general and of myself privately is that the single currency is something

CARLOS Westendorp, the that has to become reality, and it's a good thing economically and politically. As far as I am concerned, it will appear on January I, 1999. Spain ought to be, and can be, in the first group of countries that has the single currency."

He also insisted that his

references on Tuesday to the possibility of "stopping the clock" if Britain, Laly or Spain could not join were hypothetical. "I don't think it's going to happen." he added. "I believe that monetary union is going to happen as long as there are enough countries, in quantity and importance. But France and Germany and one of the other countries like Italy. Spain or the United

Kingdom is impossible."

treaty lets countries into EMU without full compliance in special circumstances. However, that flexibility has. in effect, been eliminated by recent fierce pressure from Germany for strict adherence to the criteria.

The wave of monetary angst across the Continent has embarrassed M Santer and his team. While privately acknowledging the uncertainties, they argue that doubters only play into the hands of "anti-Europeans" in Britain, France and elsewhere M Santer said there was no point "going on the defensive and leaving the ground to critics spreading counter-projects".

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Commissioner for the EMU project, agreed, saying: "We are not working on alternative scenarios. We are applying the letter of the treaty.

The project's scale became even more apparent at M Santer's £750,000 gathering. Some 400 experts and Euroeminences agreed the single currency had little chance if people could not be swiftly convinced of its merits.

The first "lie" they wanted to purge is the belief, taking old especially in France, that EMU spells unemployment. A narrow majority of EU citizens now believes that, according to a Commission poll. A key task will be convincing the German population, of which only 38 per cent is in favour of swapping the mark for the euro -- only two percentage points ahead of the British.

Expert opinion was mixed, however, on whether the "explanatory campaign" in schools, at the bank counter and through local television. should focus on "euro-in-yourpocket" benefits or the overarching political goal of European union. The model campaign, said M Santer, was Britain's five-year effort that changed public opinion and prepared the country for decimalisation in 1971.



not been paid for four months, bang their helmets on the ground in an anti-government protest outside the White House in Moscow yesterday. About 800 miners demonstrated in front of the building to protest

Russian miners demand pay

against the failure of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister. to make good a promise to pay their

for Boris Yeltsin helped him to win the presidency in 1991, have turned against the leader and his Governback wages. Miners, whose support ment. Many voted for Communists

votes in December's parliamentary elections. They plan to maintain their picket of the White House for three days. If their demands are not met, they plan to begin a nationwide strike

Bosnia tribunal sets date for war crimes trial

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE first Bosnian war crimes trial has been tentatively set for March 18, when Dusko Tadic, a Bosnian Serb, will go before the international tribunal in The Hague, charged with killing prisoners in the Omarska detention camp.

The trial of the former policeman, arrested in Ger-many in 1994, is likely to last two months, and marks a decisive phase in the world attempt to bring to justice those individuals responsible for committing atrocities. It comes as a team of investigators, headed by Justice Richard Goldstone, is preparing to start uncovering evidence at suspected sites of mass graves in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a clear change of policy. the investigators will now be

given support, protection and help by Nato forces in Bosnia, after initial resistance. Senior commanders believed such a role would compromise the main function of the Nato force, the enforcement of the

Dayton peace accord. has forced a swift reassessment, however. Nato forces will now be "pro-active" in

Public opinion in the West

Sarajevo: Sadika Hajruli, 51, a frail woman held hostage by a Serb family in the basement of their house for three years, was released yesterday - only to learn that her mother had searching out and patrolling suspected grave sites. The international tribunal

refuses to say how many of its officials are in Bosnia, and where they will go. However, an investigation of the fields outside Srebrenica, where it is suspected that up to 7,000 Muslim men may be buried,

will be the priority.

A difficult political question

Freedom brings sorrow for hostage

died a few days earlier. Mrs Hajruli was abducted in 1992

and held by a Serb woman to be exchanged for her own daughter, a prisoner of the Bosnian Government. Yesterday Mrs Hajruli's sister Izeta broke the news that their mother had just died. "We buried her on Friday. She was

couldn't wait any longer." Mrs Hajruli's husband, Kerim, a prisoner of the Serbs, has disappeared. The Serb woman's daughter, Radoika Pandurevic, is still

is whether the tribunal will

investigate the role played by

President Milosevic of Serbia

in encouraging atrocities and

ethnic cleansing. Mr Justice Goldstone has held talks in

Belgrade, the Serbian capital.

indicted by the tribunal for

war crimes. The main difficul-

ty will be to ensure that they

Fifty-two people have been

grown. \$500 million reconstruction package agreed last month.

assassinations in New York, American fears of a violent Islamic retaliation have In Washington, the World Bank approved \$150 million (£99 million) in credits for Bosnia on Tuesday to help to rebuild the devastated country. The money is part of a

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Security for American troops

serving in Bosnia has been

tightened in the wake of fears

that they may be targeted by

Mujahidin volunteers, many

of them Islamic radicals from

the Middle East who are bit-

terly hostile to the United

States. In the wake of the

sentencing of Omar Abdel-Rahman, the blind cleric who

masterminded bombings and



You'll feel virtually nothing in the new Honda Civic Coupe The Double Wishbone suspension can help smooth out

Apart from the one that occurs on the surface of the skin

the bumpiest of surfaces.

when casting your eye over the sleek new body shape.

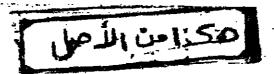
A condition that is no less severe when you take the seat behind the steering wheel. Start the engine up and you really will begin to feel something. Put your foot down and you'll immediately realise that the Coupe is a responsive beast, not just

another sheep in wolf's clothing. Beneath the bonnet of the Coupe SR is the programmed fuel injection system, perfected on the Formula One cars that powered Williams and McLaren to no less than six consecution world championships. Sounds a little bit thirsty, you may the But you couldn't be more wrong.

The Civic's V-TEC" engine was also developed in Fort

ent Fuel Consumption figures for Civic Coupe 1.6t SR: Urban-34 impg; Constant 56mph 50.4mpg; Constant 75mph 40.4mpg. On the road pock







ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

The rights and wrongs of stakeholding



BOOKS 34,35

Coleridge: the restless genius of Kubla Khan



SPORT 39-44

Dallas Cowboy prepared to call the shots

HUNT FOR. **MISSING MILLIONS** Page 28

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 25 1996

Shorts puts 1,500 workers on notice

BY ROSS TIEMAN AND

SHORT Brothers, the Belfast aerostructures com-pany, last night put 1.500 workers on three-months' notice of redundancy in case efforts to rescue Fokker, the Dutch plane-mak-

The workers are involved in building wings and other structures for the regional jets assembled by Fokker, which went into administration on Tuesday after the Dutch Government and Daimler-Benz, its German parent failed to agree on a rescue plan.

Roy McNulty, Shorts' chief executive, said Shorts and other partners and suppliers on the Fokker 70 and Fokker 100 pro-gramme had offered substantial price cuts. But they were much smaller than the 40 per cent cut Fokker had demanded just weeks ago in a desperate bid to stay in the air.

*Our immediate focus is to help Fokker to survive in any way we can." Mr McNulty said. Shorts would continue to deliver wings to the administra-

Despite hopes in The Netherlands that Bombar-dier. Shorts' Canadian parent, may buy Fokker's commercial aircraft business. Mr McNulty said there were no plans either at the Bombardier head office or in Belfast to mount a rescue. Although lent aircraft, the regional jet market was oversupplied, and some would have to go, he said.

Bombardier, which also owns de Havilland, Canadair and Learjet, has just launched a 50-seat regional jet of its own.

Shares in Fokker lost half their value, falling to just 3.2 guilders after trading resumed on the Amsterdam stock exchange. Industry sources believe buvers may be found for Fokker's aircraft servicing and defence equipment manufacturing businesses. which are not in administration. But they insist that over-capacity in regional aircraft makes the emergence of a buyer for the regional jets and turboprop business, which employs more than 4,000, unlikely.



Slipped disc Bill Cockburn, left, group chief executive of WH Smith, pictured with Jeremy Hardie, the chairman. made a scathing attack on the company's corporate culture after reporting a fall in profits Page 25, Tempus Page 26

Solicitor convicted over Belling fraud

A FORMER solicitor and his co-conspirator were yes-terday found guilty of defrauding investors in an international multimillionpound fraud which included aking more than £3 million from the pension fund of

Charles Deacon, 54, a former under-sheriff of Stafford, and James Fuller, 57, were convicted at Middlesex Crown Court on eight counts of conspiracy to defraud and obtaining property by deception.

During the three-month trial, which was brought by the Serious Fraud Office after a joint investigation with Staffordshire police, the court heard how Deacon and Fuller. together with John Savage. defrauded individuals and businesses of more than £13

million. Savage, who was under investigation in the United States in connection with money-laundering allegations, died in Colorado before he could be extradited for trial members. Besides Belling othin the UK. In the Belling case, the cash-

among students for its Baby Belling cooker, was persuaded to hand over a £3.5 million fee from the firm's pension fund to Deacon, a "trusted" solicitor, in return for a £50 million loan. The firm was shown a forged letter purported to be from Lord Tugendhat, then NatWest deputy chairman, talking about a £750 million facility

As is the case with "advanced fee" fraud, however, the victim hands over the arrangement fee upfront, usually to cover the so-called first year's interest payments, and never receives the money.

Belling could not withstand the blow and went into receivership in 1992. It is still not clear whether the Belling pension scheme will ever fully recover all the missing funds and therefore be able to meet all its future liabilities to its

er victims included Russia's largest co-operative. Finland's ggest food processing company and a Danish investor.

In some cases, the fraudsters - described by John Goldring. QC, the successful SFO prosecutor, as "accomplished liars" claimed that they were acting for the CIA on the direct authorisation of George Bush. then US President, Savage. who produced bogus letters from the former President. claimed to be a senior CIA

Pulice believe that Deacon and Fuller, who claimed to one gullible victim that he was the inventor of the world's first heart-lung machine, were part of a 12-strong gang - four in America, the rest in Britain. To make sure they had their stories off-pat, a number of them would regularly meet to rehearse their carefully

crafted lies. Deacon used more than El

million to repay a personal debt that he had assumed in connection with his involveon-Trent and paid off an overdraft which at one point stood at more than £100,000.

In his opening speech of the last October, Mr Goldring told the central London court: "You may think it would be a difficult task to steal this amount. It is simpler than you think. All you need is a little nerve and a total disregard for the truth."

The jury of five men and six women took four hours to consider three and a half months of evidence and return unanimous verdicts. They were given a majority direction by the judge on two further deception counts still outstanding against the lawyer.

Deacon, who practised in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, and Fuller face up to 14 years in jail when they appear before Judge Fabyan Evans, QC, for sentencing today.

jobs and core work By Christine Buckley tion such as offices and public

McAlpine sheds 300

chasing too little work, the company expects costs of redundancies and other reor-ganisation of £33 million. Oliver Whitehead, chief execu-

authority buildings. It is to take on higher value work such as sports stadia, leisure schemes and private finance initiative work, and has pledged a commitment to

The company said the radical reorganisation will mean a substantial loss for 1995, but it was hopeful of prospects beyond that. The share price ended 10p higher at 158p.

McAlpine had signalled savage cuts last September. when it said that construction had run into a £2.3 million loss for the first half of the year. It has cut down the business over the past few years.

Tempus, page 26

back Forte hotel chains By MELVYN MARCKUS AND ALASDAIR MURRAY SIR ROCCO FORTE surresponded by saying it had only announced its intention to dispose of the Meridien and Exclusive chains, but would

Sir Rocco

aims to buy

prised the City yesterday with the news that he is working on a potential £25 billion management buyout of the Forte hotel empire - a little more than 24 hours after Granada emerged as victor in the £3.8 billion takeover battle.

Gerry Robinson, chairman designate of Granada, was informed by Sir Rocco of his intentions at vesterday's 3pm meeting at Forte's High Holborn HQ. Sir Rocco's buyout plans embrace Forte's Exclusive. Meridien and Heritage hotel brands, along with certain other hotel assets.

In a brief statement last night. Sir Rocos said: "I am leading a team working on a plan to purchase from Granada the hotel business of Forte other than Posthouse and Travelodge, My objective is to make a detailed proposal to Granada in the coming weeks." He added: "I believe that the new Forte company which could emerge is better placed than any other purchaser to develop the value of the Meridien. Exclusive and Heritage brands, and the London hotels."

Sir Rocco said he was working to a short time-frame but no further details could be made public now. According to Sir Rocco, the meeting with Mr Robinson "was constructive and went well." Sir Rocco. who would be joined by his family as investors, is being advised by SBC Warburg, Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan. Cazenove and UBS - the same advisers that defended

Forte against Granada. Mr Robinson is believed to favour the sale of Forte's quality hotels to one suitor for tax reasons. The Forte family's 8 per cent stake in Forte is worth about £320 million and it is no secret that Sir Rocco had organised lines of credit of up to £250 million to mount a

defensive share raid. Granada

together an offer. Granada added it would pursue talks with other interested parties. Several other potential buyers also publicly expressed interest in Forte's assets. Regal Hotels, which agreed the £122 million purchase of the White Hart hotel chain with Forte only last Saturday, said that the deal remained on the table The 72 White Hart hotels fit into the mid-market range

targeted by Granada, but the

be happy to talk to Sir Rocco

and his team when he had put

hotels are much smaller than Forte's other mid-market chains, Crest and Posthouse. Regal offered Forte a mixture of cash and convertible preference shares for the purchase and while Granada has said that it is unenthusiastic about anything but cash deals. it is understood that Regal has made contingency plans for alternative financing.

Accor, the French hotel company, said it was assessing the

Meridien chain, which the company lost to Forte 18 months ago in a £280 million bid battle. Accor, which is heavily laden with debi. stressed that it would look for external financing for the deal but would provide management at the chain. Meridien chain, which now includes 85 sites after the conversion of the Forte grand format into the brand, is valued at about £800 million.

Stakis, the hotels and casino company, said it was also interested in potential purchases but had no strategic plan for acquisitions. Granada shares jumped 29p to close at 707p.

Pennington, page 25 Tempus, page 26 City Diary, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

INDR	-E9	
SE 100	3758.2	(+23.2)
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w Jones	5243.57 (
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3-mth Interbank

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30 S DOLL		
Lendon: DM FFr	1.4850*	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr) | \$16.65 (\$16.45)

London close . . \$402.65 (\$402.90) * denotes midday trading price

Adviser accused

A Government adviser who approved an £850,000 grant to a West Country computer. company later occame its chairman before it collapsed with debts of £2 million, MPs were told vesterday. Kenneth Holmes was accused of vetting the grant application from the Rom Data Corporation before joining the board of the Faimourheompany, Page 24

Accountancy

The Q(x) million defeat suffered by Glavn at the hands of the Inland Revenue over the prices subsidiary: companies within the group charge each other has gripped the accounting profession's profession. Page 28



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Shake-up at British Gas

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS is appointing a new finance director, and a new head of strategy and communications, in an effort to reinforce its top management and polish its public image. Roy Gardner, finance direc-

tor, will relinquish responsi-

bility for the accounts to concentrate on renegoniating the 140 billion of take-or-pay gas purchase contracts, and oversee the company's response to the introduction of competition in the household market. With the move comes a £20,000 pay rise, to £320,000. The finance job goes to Philip Hampton, 42, the \$280,945

a-vear British Steel finance di-

rector. Mr Hampton; a form-

er director of Lazard Brothers.

the merchant bank, will earn

£295,000, and receive a one-off



Hampton: options payout

sation for losing his 103,400 British Steel share options. of strategic planning and o mmunications creates a new

£70,000 payment as compen-

The appointment of John Wybrew as £275,000 director post. Mr Wybrew, 54, joins

Dutch/Shell from Royal where he headed the response to challenges by environmental campaigners over plans to dump the Brent Spar oil rig at sea, and over its record in Ogoniland, Nigeria. Peter Sanguinetti, the incumbent head of corporate communications, will remain in post, reporting to Mr Wybrew.

Each of the new directors will be allowed to join British Gas's new long-term incentive scheme, which holds shares in trust for executives until the share price has improved over several years.

The moves show a determination by British Gas to respond more effectively to its estimated EL5 billion liabilities in buy unwanted gas, and to adjust to competition for its 18 million domestic customers.

Pennington, page 25

ALFRED MCALPINE yesterday pulled out of core construction work. It said it will shed 300 jobs on top of 350

that have already been axed from its general building divi-sion with the closure of its traditional open tender Blaming too many players

no luture in it for us."

involved in general construc-

tive, said: "It wasn't easy for us to take this decision as the company was founded on such work, but we have been forced to realise that there is

McAlpine will no longer be

Bradford & Bingley makes loyalty rate cut payouts now on offer when societies.

By ANNE ASHIVORTH THE Bradford & Bingley. the seventh largest building society, yesterday cut its mortgage rate to 7.24 per cent - the lowest standard variable rate available - as part of a scheme to return 550 million in profits to savers and horrowers in improved rates. The 0.25 percentage point cut will reduce monthly payments on a £60,000 mortgage by \$10.

The Alliance & Leicester Building So lety is a so to announce a loyalty package for its customers, despite its plans to become a bank and seek a stock-market flotation. The A&L which is expected to make public its conversion plans on February I, will unveil its loyalty scheme towards the end of March. A&L confirmed yesterday that the society's board had already approved the scheme. No details are as yet available. To date, loyalty and bonus schemes

have been associated with societies

wedded to mutual status. The societies

aim to show that mutuality can have a

tangible long-term value, equal to the

such as the Halifax and the Woolwich. join the stock market. Despite persislent conversion and takeover rumours, the B&B's strong commitment to mutuality is clear. Its £50 million giveaway will be shared half and half between savers and borrowers.

The society says that its savers' rates would be, on average, 0.25 per cent above those of the competition. For both new and existing burrowers, it will reduce its variable mortgage rate from March 1. Those who arrange their mortgages through the B&B's

direct mortgage arm will now pay a variable rate of 6.25 per cent. Geoffrey Lister. B&B chief executive, said: "Our strong capital ratios, key measures of balance sheet strength, will be maintained at current high levels."

B&B's 1995 results will be out next month. Profits are likely to be slightly higher than 1994's El60 million. The Britannia Building Society, the eighth largest will shortly make an announcement about its long-expected mutuality reward scheme.

Pennington, page 25



Rumours of Soros selling and bid talk rattle shares

if was mother volatile day for the London market, dominat-ed by falling bond markets fter rumours that George Soros, the international speculator, was a big seller, and by more bid talk and a couple of

large share placings.
The largest of these came as
Midland Bank offloaded its remaining 5.3 per cent stake in 3i Group, the venture capital group floated in July 1994 at 272p. James Capel, which is owned by HSBC, Midland's parent, was said to have placed 30 million shares at

40sp a share. Last year, Midland reduced its 3i stake from 7.9 per cent to 5.3 per cent as part of last June's £440 million share sale by four bank shareholders. At the time, Lloyds and the Bank of England sold their entire stakes, while Barclays lowered its stake from 8.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent. Bank of Scotland and NatWest, 3i's other bank shareholders, held on to their stakes of 2.5 per cent and 17.8

per cent respectively.

3i shares ended 3p lower at 413p. on heavy volume of 62.4 million shares traded. HSBC dipped Ip to £10.96, while Lloyds TSB lost 6p to 337p, on volume of 11.6 million shares, and NafWest 7p to 667p. Bank of Scotland added 5p to 309½ p.

Meanwhile, equities failed to hold on to modest early gains as declining bond markets on both sides of the Atlantic combined with a neg-ative start to trading on Wall Street. The US markets were again unsettled by fears that Congress may not pass the necessary legislation to allow the Government to cover its budget deficit

Sentiment was also hit by late speculative, but incorrect, talk that Eddie George, Gov-ernor of the Bank of England, was going to criticise the Chancellor's recent interest rate cut in a speech he was due to deliver at the London School of Economics last

The FT-SE 100 index ended near its worst of the day, closing down 24 points at 3,734.2. Second-liners fared better, with the FT-SE 250 only slipping 0.2 to 4,086.7. Volume, swollen by substantial placings in 3i and BAA. reached 857 million at the official close.

BAA, the airports operator. ended unchanged at 496p on heavy volume of 62.8 million shares traded after the Gov-



Torquil Norman, chairman, saw Bluebird shares jump 15p

ernment sold its 2.9 per cent stake. The Treasury raised about £140 million after selling about 29.5 million BAA shares to Merrill Lynch Smith New Court, the stockbroker. which in turn passed them on to institutions in a placing at 494p a share.

Shares in Granada, which this week won control of the Forte empire after its hostile

raise the necessary finance. Forte dipped 2p to 396p on heavy volume of 20.4 million shares. Savoy A shares jumped 32p to £11.80, with the prestige hotel group seen as a prime

on doubts that Sir Rocco can

target as a one-off buy after Granada reported huge interest in the 68 per cent stake which is up for sale.

Jasmin, the electronic systems designer listed on the Alternative Investment Market, jumped 12p to 103p after accompanying increased interim profits with news of a record order book and a £5 million contract from GEC-Alsthom for passenger information systems for trains on London Underground's Northern Line.

battle with the hotels and restaurants group, touched a new high of 7382 p, but then slipped back to end 3p lower at

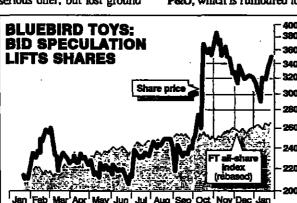
Granada was initially lifted after saying it would be happy to consider a bid from Sir Rocco Forte for the Exclusive and Meridien chain of hotels once he and his team are in a position to put forward a serious offer, but lost ground

recent gains as the City took a calmer approach and accepted the rumours may yet again be unfounded. The shares retreated 26 p to 636p after the bank said it was not aware of any circumstances leading to the recent movement in its

Standard Chartered, which

has been gripped by takeover speculation, fell back after

P&O, which is rumoured to



be a potential break-up candidate, was the best perfomer among FT-SE stocks, with the shipping to property group steaming ahead 12½p to 529p. Toy companies were also

the centre of speculative interest in the wake of the \$5.2 billion hostile offer from Mattel, the US toy group whose empire spans Barbie dolls to Fisher Price products, for Hasbro, its American rival. Among possible UK tar-gets, Bluebird Toys, which is 6.7 per cent owned by Hasbro and is one of the UK's few remaining independent toy groups, jumped to 363p before ending at 354p, up 15p. Games Workshop added 7p

to 299p and Toy Options firmed 2p to 98p. Lasmo was also a good market, adding 2'2p to 172p. before a Nigerian drilling

report next week. British Biotech continued its remarkable advance, surg-ing to E23.58 before closing at £22.38. up 70p, for a two-day gain of 268p. The shares have more than trebled in the past six months as investors become increasingly optimistic about prospects for Marimastat, the company's new cancer treatment which is

undergoing trials. Elsewhere, Cantab Pharmaceuticals surged 85p to 530p, Cortecs 33p to 270p, Scotia 19p to 503p and Anagen 5p to 75p. ML Laboratories, meanwhile, raced to an alltime high of 457p, up 46p at 400p after accompanying increased losses with a £25 million cash call.

Holliday Chemical dived 45p to 119p after issuing a profits warning. The warning unsettled others in the sector. with Yorkshire Chemicals down 22p to 258p, Laporte 13p to 644p, ICI 18p to 808p and Courtaulds 15p to 432p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts suffered widespread falls. The March long gift future lost 20 ticks to Elli¹¹/32 on volume of

65,000 contracts. Among con-

ventional stocks, five-year issues fell by about £4, while losses extended to £3 among longer-dated stocks. ☐ NEW YORK: A sell-off in the US bond market continued to weigh on Wall Street shares and kept them trading lower at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was down

14.09 at 5,228.75. Analysts said

the market was also falling

prey to some profit taking

after a steep run, mostly

New York (midday): 20414.69 (+101.95) Hong Kong: Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt: 2443.72 (+20.65) Singapore: Paris: Zurich: 720,70 (-2,80) London: 3734,2 (-24.0, 4086.7 (-0.2) FT-SE MId 250 FT-SE-A 350 _____FT-SE Eurograck 100 _ 1854.5 (-9.4 1543.95 (+3.2) 1828.67 (-8.5) 1923.14 (-8.4) FT A All-Share ET Pixed Interest __ 1]4.9! (+0.18)

Bank of England official close (4pm) RPI _____ 150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100 RPIX ____ 149.6 Dec (1.0%) Jan 1987=100

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Closing Prices Page 27

British Vite

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Boeing flies higher

Airbus Industrie, the European plane-makers' consortium. The American firm is gaining ground just as demand for airliners begins to recover from a four-year slide. The negative impact of a ten-week machin-

ists' strike coloured yesterday figures from the Seattle manufacturer. Nevertheless, Boeing shareholders have Airbus to thank for the leaner and meaner look of the American company.

During 1994, and for the first time, Airbus booked more new orders than Boeing. The Americans responded with aggressive discounting, offering airlines planes for delivery in four years at prices 25 per cent below the current cost of production.

These deals are backed by a cost-cutting drive that Airbus cannot possibly match. The

European consortium is hamstrung by its ownership structure, which gives the partners insufficient incentive to cut costs. Although British Aerospace, a 20 per cent partner. claims to be the world's most cost-competitive aerostructures company, Airbus is weighed down by the strength of the mark, the franc and the social costs of its French, German and Spanish partners.

Last year, Boeing booked two thirds of all new orders for commercial jets worldwide. This year it has extended its lead with sales projected to recover to \$22 billion. Backed by 2 \$66.5 billion order book, and despite the failure of merger talks with US rival McDonnell Douglas, Boeing's pockets are bulging with enough cash to develop new planes and make acquisitions. Unless Airbus pulls itself together, the skywar is all but lost.

Holliday

HOLLIDAY Chemicals is suffering from more than a bout of seasonal depression and the market duly thrashed the share pice after it said that there was little chance of any The Huddersfield com-

pany closed a laundry products factory in Hull earlier this month. The move gave some credence to the growing alarm in the chemicals industry that the much talked about destocking is going deeper than expected and industry gossip suggests more fundamental shake-up.

Yesterday, Holliday gave a warning to the market of problems in ultramarine pig-ments. Holliday is the world leader in production of ultramarine dyestoffs and said that these high-margin goods were making up a

lower proportion of group sales. In spite of upbeat forecasts that demand for chemicals will pick up this year, Holliday fails to see any large-scale recovery in its sales or its order book.

Holliday earns a living from several niche chemical products including textile dye stuffs, hairdyes and photographic materials. Huge

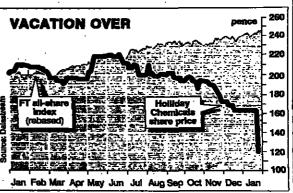
surges in the price of raw materials have hurt margins, while sales have declined, increasing price pressure.

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Holliday's warning rebounded Chemicals, which is also exposed to dyestuffs. Without signs of renewed demand, investors are better off with minimal exposure to the chemicals cycle.



Burton

BURTON failed dismally to talk down its prospects yesterday. Words of caution received scant attention from analysts as they swiftly upgraded their profit forecasts for the retailing group.

Burton has long been dubbed a recovery stock, but until last year showed little evidence of living up to the title. Generating less than £100 million in profits from almost £2 billion in turnover. there certainly has been room for improvement.

The first sign of recovery was last year's sharp climb in margin, helping profits to more than double. Yesterday's news that the gain in gross margin had slipped from 2.2 per cent to 1.9 per cent was not unexpected. Instead of worrying that the pace of growth was slowing, the market took comfort from good like-for-like sales growth and evidence that margins are still on the rise. With raised profit expectaand at a 40 per cent premium to the sector. The recovery is still gathering steam, and so

tions, the shares are trading

on about 19 times earnings

Mersey Docks LIKE the proverbial bad pen-

ny, labour problems have continued to haunt the Liverpool docks. Mersey Docks and Harbour Company shareholders will wince at the idea of paying up to £8 doned their jobs in a quixotic gesture of support towards redundant employees of a separate, and now defunct,

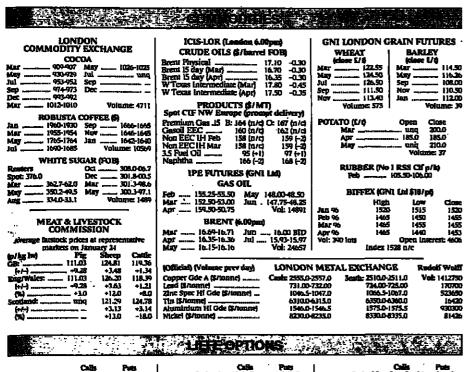
stevedoring company. It may, however, turn out to be money well spent. Britain has too many ports to service a small island, and rivals of Mersey Docks were busy seducing its shipping customers while the cranes stood idle at the Royal Seaforth Docks. The company claims to have retained all its important customers, but, even so,

portunity to seek concessions from Mersey Docks in exchange for continued loyalty to Liverpool.

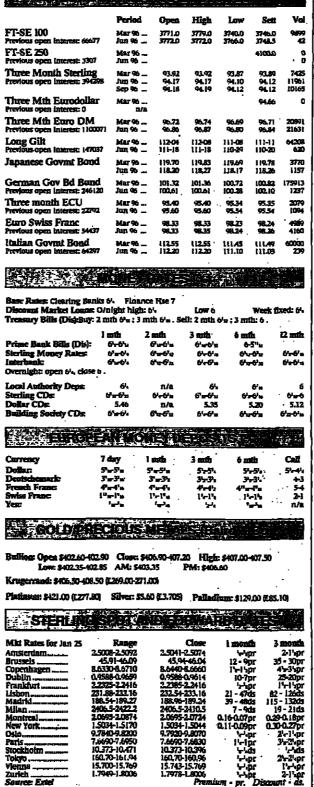
However, Mersey Docks has extracted an important gain from the strike. Productivity has vastly improved at the container terminal; jobs taken over by shippers and new working practices have reduced manning levels by half, a cost-saving that should make Liverpool more competitive and able to at-

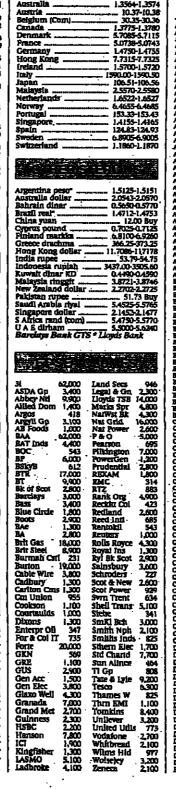
Many of the dockers sacked in the dispute were approaching retirement; their age must partly explain their bizarre atempt to force a revival of the National Dock Labour Scheme. A reversal of the growth in activity over the past five years at the Port of Liverpool would kill off attempts to revive business on Merseyside, and the hope must be that the settlement will allow old wounds to heal.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



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□ New arrivals face a tough task □ Confusion at the checkouts □ Bradford & Bingley sticks to its last

Pricking the gas bubble

☐ ON any list of the worst jobs in British business, head of public relations at British Gas should be close to the top. But fighting it out for first place would be finance director at British Gas and that of the man who has to sort out the "gas bubble" and the arrival of

domestic competition.

All three posts are now filled, although the British Gas announcement to that effect is somewhat disingenuous. The well-regarded Philip Hampton is arriving from British Steel as finance man, while his predecessor, Roy Gardner, looks after gas trading, including the matter of all that unwanted gas con-tracted from the North Sea, the now-discredited service business and competition.

Hm. Actually, when Mr Gardner took on these additional responsibilities in December he was always going to continue as finance director. The implication is that the job has proven more onerous than expected, which is hardly surprising. The pilot project to open the household market in the South West from April 1 is dogged by delays, and the company has pleaded in vain with the regulator for a breath-

Tip : 1 - x - x - x - x

Ta Marine Share

The gas bubble is a rather simpler matter, because if a solution to take-or-pay contracts is not found British Gas could go

bankrupt. What better man than the former finance director to

head off that day?
As to public relations, the John
Wybrew who is arriving from
Shell to tackle this as well as planning and marketing is the man who brought you Brent Spar and Ogoniland, so he is nothing if not battle-hardened.

The new arrivals will be considering an ingenious, if farfetched, solution to nearly all of their worries. On the file at British Gas's Rivermill House headquarters is the sale of the UK supply business, in response to the impending loss of monopoly in the household market.

Richard Giordano, the chairman, is reluctant to take any decision while efforts to renegotiate those North Sea contracts continue. But the idea is that if these fail, the supply business could be split into its eight regional parts. These would be offered for sale either with gas purchase contracts from British Gas's wretched take-or-pay portfolio, or with back-to-back supply agreements so the company can act as wholesaler.

Potential buyers would in-

clude North Sea oil and gas producers, many of which are already active in supplying the industrial and commercial gas market, and the regional electricity companies.

Until the enactment of the Gas Act 1995, disposal would have been impossible because British Gas had a statutory duty to maintain gas supplies. But that Act, which paves the way for competition, paradoxically al-lows the company to sell just those activities it is designed to

open up to outsiders.
Purchasers would be attracted by the enormous customer base of the businesses, and they might be able to renegotiate the take-orpay contracts more easily than British Gas — particularly if they are themselves gas producers.

Grocery bills that never add up

☐ ANYONE struggling through the weekly food shop knows full well that the supermarket price wars rage with ever greater aggression and ingenuity. But this fact of domestic life seems to PENNINGTON



be lost on the statisticians. According to the official figures. food prices saw one of the biggest rises of any sector in 1995. Surely loyalty cards, "buy two, get one free" offers, privilege points and the rest are having their effect on inflation? Probably not, is the improbable answer.

Measuring prices is enor-mously difficult, and there is evidence to suggest that the retail prices index is not nimble enough to take account of the new marketing weapons being ranged at today's shoppers. A study from Natwest Mar-

kets points out, for example, that two-for-one deals don't count in the official figures. If the size of a standard can of beans were doubled and this lasted for a few

Prospect

strikes

£21m loss

PROSPECT Industries, the

supplier of specialist engi-

neering services to the pow-

er-generation industry,

incurred pre-tax losses of £21.3 million last year

Losses for the 12 months

to September 30 were re-

(Martin Barrow writes).

months, its price in the index would be halved. But if the consumer buys two cans and gets one free, there is deemed to be no price change. In the case of loyalty cards, the statisticians take no account of the free goods bought with points earned. Bonus goods are counted as income transferred from companies to people, and no price savings are registered in the RPI. Even more dramatic is the fact

that computers, whose prices have tumbled as their quality has risen, are not counted in the RPI until next year. But sales of computers and software (also excluded from the index) were the boom items at Christmas. It is arguable that the real level

of high street inflation could be as much as 1 to 1.5 per cent lower than recorded by the RPI. This means that, if the Government were to attain its goal of 2.5 per cent, consumers would be enjoying virtual price stability. And just remember that the supermarket price wars are only part of a dynamic competitive domino effect. We have already seen price battles break out in mobile phones, books, petrol, holidays,

insurance, hi-fi . . . the list goes on. Keeping up to speed with all this is the statistician's nightmare and the consumer's dream.

A borrower or a lender be

☐ BRADFORD & Bingley's unilateral trimming of its mortgage and lending rates may be only another skirmish in the endless war between building societies for savers and borrowers, but it does set out the strengths of the traditionalists' case.

The B&B says that profit, while not being intrinsically bad, is the fuel that drives the engine rather than the destination itself. Cash should not be allowed to pile up when it can instead be used to the advantage of investors and borrowers.

Without the release of £50 million of profits a year to members, the solvency ratio that the society is required to maintain would eventually climb to unnecessary heights. That ratio, expressed as the size of the reserves held divided by the assets at risk, should never fall

below 10 per cent. At the Bradford & Bingley, it is currently 14 per cent, and without some redistribution it would shortly have reached 18 per cent. For societies heading down the road to conversion to ple and bank status, those reserves and that ratio would eventually, of course, be slimmed by the need to fund dividends.

For those who have insisted they will retain mutual status, the release of some profits to members has a twin advantage. It enables them to provide keener rates. In addition, by shrinking those reserves it reduces the number of "carpet-baggers" who park themselves on the books in the hopes of eventual payouts from them on demutualisation.

Two-way bet

TYESTERDAY'S jump in the Granada price, after a trading statement that was never going to be downbeat, takes the shares right back to where they were in November. So institutions such as MAM which bought both sides during the bid have done rather well, seeing the value of their Granada stake restored while being given the chance, via the cash and shares alternative in the Forte bid, to buy into Granada quite cheaply. And MAM, of course, swung the bid

New WH Smith chief plans strategic review

THE corporate culture at WH Smith, the retail group, is completely wrong and must be changed if it is to compete effectively in the tough trading environment. Bill Cockburn, chief execu-

Mr Cockburn, who took

January 2, said: "There is a culture of excuses, a culture of complacency, and a culture of explaining on the night why we haven't done what we said we would do." He added: "There is not

enough accountability and an attitude that seems to accept

product." Mr Cockburn's remarks came as he reported a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £51.2 million to £26.6 million in the 31 weeks to January 6.

Profits were dented by extra costs of £19.8 million, including £9.1 million for increased advertising and promotional

spend and £4.3 million to cover redundancy costs.

In an attempt to restore its flagging fortunes, Mr Cockburn is undertaking a thorough strategic review of the entire group, which en-compasses 549 high street WH Smith stores, 317 Virgin/Our Price outlets, a 98-strong chain of Waterstone's bookstores as well as Do-It-All, a newspaper and magazine distribution business, and an office supplies operation.

Mr Cockburn said that he would complete his review by late spring and that it would focus particularly on the cost base. He said: "Everything is being reviewed. Nothing is being ruled out."

Analysts said that they hoped the group would sell or close Do-It-All, the DIY joint venture with Boots.

The company has never officialy offered the chain for sale, but few analysts believe that a buyer would have been turned away if one had emerged. As a result, closure is considered the more likely of the two routes, in spite of the resulting costs and strain on the balance sheet such a move would incur.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman. said that the sales performance of the group's constituent parts were encouraging, but the profit performance was unsatisfactory, mainly due to margin erosion resulting from an increasingly competitive market place and

higher labour costs". Group sales rose from £1.22 billion to £1.35 billion, however, the periods are not directly comparable as this year includes the a busy pre-Christmas trading week, replacing a less busy week in May. He said that, in the main, the group's Christmas trading performance was

The interim dividend, payable on April I, was held at 5.25p. It is being paid out of earnings of 4p. down from 11.2p last time. The shares remained unchanged at 407p.

Tempus, page 26

mediocrity in areas such as over as chief executive on

Sir Richard Greenbury saw sales rise but not by enough to impress analysts

M&S downgraded over Christmas performance

By SARAH BAGNALL

MARKS & SPENCER yesterday revealed that it had failed to maintain its customary outperformance of its rivals in the high street over the critical Christmas period

The news prompted analysts to downgrade their fullyear profit forecasts for the retailer. However, the cuts were less deep than analysts had pencilled in ahead of the figures. The shares rose 40 to 439p, reflecting relief that the news was not worse.

M&S, under the chairmanship of Sir Richard

Bankers Trust

settles claim

BANKERS TRUST, the US

bank, has agreed to pay \$67 million to Air Products and

Chemicals to settle a claim

over \$107 million losses on

derivatives products through

fraudulent deals in the early

paid \$14 million to Gibson Greetings and \$12 million to

Federal Paper Board, as well

as a \$10 million fine to the

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on all trading topics.

Bankers Trust has already

Greenbury, saw UK sales rise 6.5 per cent in the five weeks to December 30, helping to lift sales in the three months to the end of the year by 4.7 per

Sean Eadie, an analyst at NatWest Securities. said: "The figures are pretty dull. This reflects retailing as a whole, but one expects Marks & Spencer to outperform the sector." He estimated that of the 4.7 per cent advance in sales, about three percentage points were due to increased

its members that directors and

executives are responsible for

The Securities and Futures

Authority (SFA), the regulator

for brokers and futures deal-

ers, fined Panmure Gordon

E50,000 with £10,000 costs

and issued a formal "severe

reprimand". The case arose

The second second second

the actions of their staff.

M&S said that over the three months, food sales rose 4.5 per cent and general merchandise sales increased 4.8 per cent. However, clothing sales were dented by the exceptionally mild autumn. Analysts had expected lack-

lustre clothing figures, but the growth in food sales was disappointing. M&S disclosed mixed fortunes overseas. It said that **Brooks Brothers and Kings** Super Markets sales were progressing, while those in France had suffered.

Warning from SFA in

Panmure Gordon fine

Wells Fargo wins US

By ROBERT MILLER A LEADING City watchdog after Jeremy Gray, a former vesterday sent a clear signal to fund manager's assistant in the firm's private client de-

> million from two clients in Panmure Gordon, which alerted the SFA to the fraud, has compensated the investors

partment, stole more than £3

in full for their losses. Last October, Gray was sent to prison for six years at London's Snaresbrook Crown court on counts of theft, false accounting and handling stolen goods

Lord McGowan, chairman of Panmure Gordon, said: We very much regret the fine and reprimand. As our regulator, we have to accept the SFA's ruling and support its actions, which we do."

The SFA said: "This is an indication that we expect our members to exercise proper checks and controls over inter-nal procedures that make any potential fraud more difficult to commit."

bank battle AMERICA'S biggest bank

takeover battle has been won by Wells Fargo, which won control of First Interstate after a three-month fight with First Bank Systems, a rival bidder (Richard Thomson writes).

First Interstate, based in Los Angeles, capitulated to the \$11.6 billion Wells Fargo bid yesterday, after its friendly agreement to merge with First Bank Systems, of Minneapo-lis, collapsed.

Wells Fargo's victory is the first hostile bid to succeed in the US banking sector since the late 1980s. The bid dwarfed the \$10 billion merger agreed between Chemical Bank and Chase Manhattan

last August. The merged bank, to be called Wells Fargo, will be the eighth largest in the US with assets of \$108 billion.

First Interstate attempted to escape Wells's clutches by agreeing a deal with FBS, but this fell through last weekend.

MMC chief calls for direct OFT referrals

FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Director-General of Fair Trading should be able to refer mergers directly to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Graeme Odgers. MMC chairman. suggests

enthusiasm for reform should

corded after total exceptionin his annual report. al charges of £18 million. in carefully chosen words. including goodwill written off of £7 million, after a year Mr Odgers says that the present system, under which the President of the Board of of widespread restructuring. In addition, there has Trade decides after advice been a downward adjustfrom the Director-General. ment of £9.4 million to asset "introduces a political input at values after the appointtoo early a stage of the

ment of new management. regulatory process". Pre-tax profits in 1994 were £5.9 million and earnings were 2.35p. The Reform of competition law is necessary, Mr Odgers writes. But the MMC chairloss per share last year was man takes a more cautious 7.24p. There is a nominal final dividend of 0.025p a view than Sir Bryan Carsberg. the former head of the the share, making a total of Office of Fair Trading. He 0.125p (0.85p). writes: "I am concerned that



Odgers: "political input"

not sweep away much that is good in our present system." Merging the MMC into the OFT could provide greater consistency. Mr Odgers concedes, but could also undermine the present openeness of the system and make the OFT too powerful. MMC investiga-

publication of its report, alone with evidence given by the parties. OFT decisions are conducted on a discreet basis, sometimes with little explanation of conclusions. Mr Odgers also has doubts

about plans broadly backed by the Labour Party to make anti-competitive behaviour illegal and subject to civil actions. He says blanket rules would make it harder to establish what was an abuse and therefore harder for regulators to promote competition.

Frequent court cases "may not be best suited to resolving economic issues related to market definition. dominance and abuse of dominance". But he backs changes, promised by the Government, to strengthen the power of the OFT over restrictive practices and ban suspected restricted practices until investigated.

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Rei No. 18120

STOCK MARKET



Standard Chartered on bid alert as shares soar

on bid alert again last night as its share price surged 432 p to a new high of 662p. Turnover in the shares was low, with less than 3 million changing hands, although the word is that Gartmore, the fund manager, and at least one American institution were trying to pick-up stock.

Brokers say that much of the rise could be attributed to stock shortages on the part of market-makers. But one thing the company was not short of yesterday was potential suitors. Weekend reports had suggested a bid from rival National Westminster Bank, up 6p at 674p.

It is a story that most traders in the stock have been quick to discount. However, other names have now started to feature, including Deutsche Bank, which already owns Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and Dresdner Bank, which last year splashed out £500 million-plus for Kleinwort Benson.

Standard spokesman said: "We have no information and would not comment on market rumours."

Elsewhere, the market continued its record-breaking run, cheered by a strong start to trading on Wall Street. Hopes are high that next week's meeting of the Federal Reserve Open Markets Committee will signal a cut in US interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a rise of 23.2 to a new high of 3.758.2. As the dust continues to settle after Granada's successful bid for Forte, investors began looking around for other companies in the sector in which to invest. Top of the list was Ladbroke, which responded with a rise of 82p to 1724p. The shares have been supported in recent months by talk of a possible bid from

Bass, 4p dearer at 736p. Rank Organisation was another beneficiary of the flow of funds out of Forte, adding 7p at 45lp. It also drew strength from some encouraging trading news from Rank

Sir Rocco Forte's pledge to rebuild the family business from scratch did not fall on deaf ears. The family is reckoned to be set to pick up £300 million from the sale of their which ploughed into a new venture. As a result, there were markups for Pizza Express, lp up at

...... 994 993 [015-1012

ROBUSTA COFFEE (5)

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

医高克尔姆 网络



Signs of a building recovery were provided by Alfred McAlpine 90p on the news that rival 262p, and MyKinda Town. up

12p at 132p.

Marks & Spencer, the subject of some high-profile criticism recently, perked up with a 3p rise to 438p after an encouraging trading statement. General sales over the Christmas period grew 6.7 per cent, with food sales 6.1 per

Burton Group, which is

that it was the subject of an investigation by the fraud squad over valuation irregularities at its northern division dating back to last year.

Bellway has bought close to a 5 per cent stake. This has raised

hopes that Bellway may be

poised to make a full bid. Only last week. Wainhomes

plunged to 65p after revealing

Lonrho fell 32p to 2012p despite news that Ashanti, in which it has a 41 per cent stake, has applied for a listing on the New York Stock Exchange. Shareholders at Ashanti's AGM in Ghana were told the move would raise its international profile. Ashanti is one of The Times mining shares of the year.

due to issue a trading statement today, finished 2p lighter at 129½p.

News of two boardroom appointments had little effect on the price of British Gas shares, down 2p to 2482p. Philip Hampton has been appointed finance chief, with John Wybrew director responsible for strategic planning and corporate affairs.

Wainhomes rallied 10p to Two employees have been sacked and another two suspended. The board also called for the resignation of Ron Smith, chief executive, claiming they had lost confidence in him following the latest profits warning.

Signs of a long-awaited recovery in the housebuilding sector were also provided by Alfred McAlpine, which has decided to concentrate on its

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

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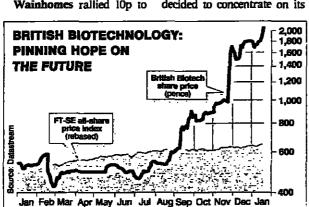
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97°: 146 112°: 153 135 170 148°: 187°: — 194

housing activities. The group vesterday announced plans to close its open tender construction business at a cost of £34 million. Despite this, the shares rose 10p to 158p. Earlier this week, the Berkeley Group, another

soared to yet another new peak with a leap of 198p to £21.68. Investors are becoming

Inishtech, a company in which Crean has a 71.2 per cent stake, has received a bid approach at a significant premium to the current bid price. News of an encouraging

A testing programme is now underway and the rig will move to a new position 3.5 miles north of Sangu-I. Cairn holds 75 per cent of Block 16. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Prices traded in a narrow range for much of the day, with buying interest muted ahead of next week's meeting of the FOMC

on hand to issue further tranches of existing stock,

series of the long gilt traded in a range of £1112532 and £112332 before finishing £516 better at £1113132. A total of 57,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market. Trea-

cent 2000 was £732 better at £105¹⁵32. ☐ NEW YORK: Shares were strong at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average up 51.30 points at 5,243.57

housebuilder, unveiled plans to raise £73 million in order to take advantage of depressed prices and increase the size of its land bank.
British Biotechnology

increasingly excited about the prospects for Marimastat, its new cancer treatment, which is currently undergoing trials. James Crean stood out with leap of 30p to 243p.

drilling report hoisted Cairn Energy 352p to 1792p as almost 5 million shares changed hands.

The group says that its Sangu-i exploration well in Block 16 offshore of Bangladesh is now operating at total devth.

and gilt auction. The Bank of England was

including £150 million of Treasury Index-linked 43 per cent 2004 and £100 million of Treasury Index-linked 212 per cent 2013. In the futures pit, the March

sury 8 per cent 2013 climbed £716 to £103½, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per

many high-technology issues.

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MAJOR INDICES New York (midday): 618.13 (+5.34) Tokyo: 20312.74 (+231.82) Hong Kong: 10960.21 (+2.99) Amsterdam: Sydney: 2235.7 (-10.9) Frankfurt 2423.07 (+38.60) Singapore: 2410.25 (-22.75) Brussels: Paris: 1945.97 (+11.89) Zurick: SKA Gen London: 3758.2 (+23.3) 4086.9 (+14.5) 1863.9 (+10.5) FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1540.68 (+11.47) .. 1837.17 (+9.95) ... 1931.54 (+8.44) ... 114.73 (-0.01)

FT 100 FT-SE MId 250 FT-SE-A 350 ... FT A All-Share FT Non Financials FT Fixed Interest . FT Govt Secs ... _ 96.15 (+0.17) SEAQ Volume USM (Datastrn) 861.5m 197.41 (+0.65) 1.5130 (-0.0015) 2.2397 (+0.0031) USS German Mark ... __ 83.1 (+O.1) Bank of England official close (4pm) E:SDR 1.0353 RPI 1.057 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100 RPIX 149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100 RECENT ISSUES

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RIGHTS ISSUES

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MAJOR CHANGES
RISES:
Wainhomes 90p (+10p)
Cantab Pharms 445p (+32p)
Superscape VR 420p (+30p)
Cortecs 237p (+16p)
Standard Chart 662120 (+43120)
A McAlpine 158p (+10p)
Bowthorpe 405p (+21p)
Mitel 384p (+ 18p)
Menvier-Swain 266p (+13p)
UniChem 257p (+11p)
Granada 707p (+29p)
Filtronic Com 415p (+15p)
Forte 398p (+14p)
British Bornec 373p (+13p)
Redland 376p (+12p)
BSS Group 555p (+15p)
Yorks Chem 280p (+10p)
FALLS:
Sappi

457p (-13p) 600p (-17p) 533p (-10p) ... 575p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

Famell Elect ..

LONDON FINANCIAL PUTURES

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Krugerrand: \$402.25-404.25 F.266.00-268 00: Platinum: \$4,7 ×5 (1776 65) Silver: \$5.51 (13.645) Palladium: \$128.25 (184.90)

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Who pays for the bids?

longer tolerate inefficiencies.

Yesterday, the stock mar-ket patted Alfred McAlpine

on the back for being the first

big quoted builder to shut

down its traditional building

operations. McAlpine is

shrinking the company

down to the housing division

and civil engineering opera-

tions plus a specialised unit

will invest in PFI

Granada's takeover of Forte. The total figure — in the region of £135 million — is a big number, but in itself says nothing about the larger question of whether takeovers ever justify their costs. Granada's own £105 milion bill looks huge, but £20 milion represents stamp duty and a further E70

million relates to underwriting costs.

Underwriting is a method of insuring against the fall in value of shares issued to finance an offer. The OFT and the London Business School have rightly criticised high underwriting fees: these fixed charges are often unrelated to specific company risks, but underwriting per se is no more of a cost to society than general insurance.

Academics are divided over whether bids enhance shareholder value. However, there is no clear evidence that costs are increasing. According to Acquisitions Monthly, fees paid for takeovers in the 1989 boom were £800

MPs and others are in a flap about the costs of million, 2.8 per cent of the £28 billion value of the offers, compared with £950 million of fees,

2.6 per cent of offers last year. More worthy of criticism are the advisory bills accumulated by Forte. Granada will inherit some £30 million of fees charged by sundry merchant bankers and lawyers, more than twice the cost of its own advisers. Bidders must budget carefully if they are not to squander the benefits of a takeover, but targets have no such discipline and, like Forte, can hire armies of advisers knowing that failure simply means handing the bill to the aggressor. More galling to shareholders is the knowledge that Forte could certainly have avoided its fate and great expense, had it taken good advice earlier and made the disposals it proposed during the bid.

Papers

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In future, if investors are not prepared to take the initiative and demand the removal of lazy bosses, they will continue to pay for takeovers.

projects, such as roads, hos-

pitals and other local author-ity schemes. McAlpine's

move will stem huge losses.

but there is a question mark over whether it has the

strength and cashflow to

expand housing and PFI

projects that demand capital injections. The company is

better placed, but may still

need a big brother.

MCALPINE LEAVES THE BUILDING

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan

Alfred McAlpine

IF THE chairmen of building companies were as brave as their words, the industry's problems could be solved overnight. However, wailing about overcapacity is easier than trimming your sails. Many companies prefer to subsidise their contracting arms from profitable aggregates or homes operations rather than take on the dirty job of closures and sackings. The ostrich approach is

about to change, however, for two reasons. Builders struggled with thin margins for years, relying on the cashflow from pre-payments to keep the business ticking over. Profits were a happy accident from successful claims for cost-overruns. Today, cashflow is turning negative as margins are too

thin to cover costs and the economics of the industry no WH Smith

ADMISSION of a problem is often the first crucial step
towards recovery, and, hope-
fully, WH Smith is no
exception.
Bill Cockburn is right to
identify a culture problem at
the group. Retailing is not a
picnic; aggressive rivals have
eaten into W H Smith's core
business, and the group's
centlemanly response has

proved lamentably inept. It is too early to tell whether Cockburn will succeed in sweeping out the cobwebs and cosy culture, but he is making the right

noises. Yesterday's interim results revealed both new and old problems: poor distribution meant that stores were left with the wrong stock and extra costs over the critical tion has forced the group to

sales. Elsewhere, the trading environment has hurt WH Smith in several areas — new contracts with publishers have eaten away at newspaper distribution margins, while the demise of the net book agreement means that Waterstone's has to sell three discounted books rather than

two just to stand still. Cockburn has yet to comolete his strategic review. Nothing is ruled out and a further restructuring charge is not out of the question. especially as Cockburn has stated he intends to remove more cost from the group.

For now there is little besides rhetoric on which to judge the group's fortunes. and the shares are best left alone until Cockburn reveals his hand.

Wainhomes

WHATEVER the intentions of Beliway, it has made an homes. Wainhomes's share ing last week when the police confidence" and the price plunged to 64p. Whatever the

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instant profit from its pur-chase of shares in Wainprice took an excessive beatmoved in to investigate "accounting irregularities". The chairman sacked the chief executive for an alleged "loss of hit to profits from a restatement of work in progress, analysts still reckon that the net asset value of the builder ought to be worth up to 94p.

Those builders still committed to the homes market are looking for quick ways to build up stock, and takeovers are an obvious route, but no one should expect a hostile bid for Wainhomes; the management still control 42 per cent of the company. With land prices now more reasonable, sensible builders will

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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the scheme was investors' use of bulletin boards on the

Another less ambitious

scheme promised "a whop-

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risk" investment in cel farm-

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offer of an investment that

would double investors'

through the use of the infa-

mous prime bank guaran-

tees - bogus instruments

that are held out as a kind of

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the internet was used to help

From these few brief ex-

amples, it is obvious that

there is as yet at least.

nothing very innovative about Internet fraud. The

unscrupulous are still rely-

ing on the conventional

buzzwords to attract and

reassure investors. Although

it can be difficult to discover

who is behind a particular e-

mail or web site, the SIB

says it is hard for those

running dubious investment

schemes to hide completely.

They still need to make

contact with their victims.

However, the SIB is worried

about new services that offer

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in four months



Irish eyes eye Forte

IN SPITE of Gerry Robinson's repeated assertions to the contrary, the great Forte sell-off may already have begun. You know the kind of thing: ageing but still attractive hotel, one careful owner, all offers considered.

City Diary has already been approached by one Irish solicitor, representing a group of businessmen with eyes on the Belfast Forte Crest. What are the chances of a purchase, he asked, and to whom should he talk? In faithful service to its readers, we have furnished the solicitor with Granada's telephone number.

Power play LAURA ASHLEY, the

womenswear and furnishing retailer, is decidedly more feminine of late. Ann Iverson yesterday rounded off a recruitment spree with her fifth female appointment since she took over as chief executive last September. Kathy Self becomes senior vice-president of retail operations in North America, joining Patricia Manning, marketing director, Deborah Baker, human resources director, Julie Ramshaw, merchandising director, and Basha Cohen, design and buying director. The five join Ms Iverson on the li-strong executive committee, resulting in the rare occurrence of women outnumbering men at such a senior level.



"Thought you said Granada was in no hurry to sell"

Explosive work

27 10 1 25 5 1 13

REVIEWERS may rave "you must read this book". but few carry the authority of Ian Plenderleith, Bank of England director and official government broker. He told investors and traders gathered at the Grocer's Hall yesterday that the new £45 Merrill Lynch Guide to the Gilt-Edged and Sterling Bond Markets was "essential reading". He would, he added, be conducting tests back at the Bank to make sure people had done their homework. These tests could prove alarming given that Pienderleith believes that Patrick Phillips, the author, former de Zoete broker and now Merrill consultant, is "the first rocket scientist of the gilt-edged market, our

own Werner von Braun". COLIN CAMPBELL



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Britain Could be Working

JOBS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

INFLATION AND LABOUR COSTS

(Annual per cent change)

Time has come to review the demand-side disaster

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(Per cent) Right hand scale

UNIT LABOUR COSTS

Stakeholder debate ought to focus on social issues

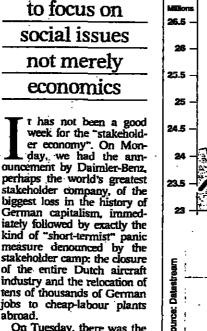
not merely

t has not been a good week for the "stakeholder economy". On Mon-day, we had the ann-ouncement by Daimler-Benz, perhaps the world's greatest stakeholder company, of the biggest loss in the history of German capitalism, immediately followed by exactly the kind of "short-termist" panic measure denounced by the stakeholder camp: the closure of the entire Dutch aircraft industry and the relocation of

On Tuesday, there was the takeover of Forte by Granada, a classic short-termist assetstripping operation. At first sight, this raid seemed just the sort of outrage that stakeholding is designed to stamp out. On closer inspection, however, the success of the bid turned on the direct involvement in both Granda's and Forte's corporate affairs of an active long-term shareholder in this case Mercury Asset

news got even worse with the attacks on Harriet Harman. Ms Harman had undertaken the ultimate stakeholder action. She had asserted her right and duty to play an active role in her son's education and at the same time cast the clearest possible vote of no confidence in the decimation of central London's schools after 17 years' of Tory government. For this, she was pilloried by the very people in the Labour Party who say they want to transform Britain from a nation of consumers and shopkeepers into a nation of active citizens - of people who can work together

always having to change hands. Personally. I think Tony Blair was on the right track two weeks ago when he set forth his vision of creating a "stakeholders' Britain". What he seemed to mean was that the realm of politics should be expanded to many areas of life



Management. This takeover was driven by

the enthusiastic commitment to Granada's strategy of active shareholders such as Carol Galley, MAM's suddenly famous vice-chairman. It is true that other stakeholders in the bid were not consulted, but does anyone think that Ms Galley's decision would have been any different if she had invited in a delegation of Forte workers and suppliers for a cup of tea? In this case, the supposed cure of "hands-on" active shareholders turned out to be the cause of the disease.

through non-market social mechanisms without money

in Britain that had been taken

over by market forces. By relying too much on market forces in areas such as health, education, law, the arts and the relief of poverty, the Tories have probably done Britain more harm than good. These basic values of a civilised society are not commodities, whose production and distribution should be governed simply by buying at the cheapest price and selling to the highest bidder. The principle of one man one vote should not be entirely superseded by

one pound one vote. The trouble is that the history of the "stakeholder" concept, at least in Britain, suggests a much narrower focus on economic and financial, rather than social issues. The claims made are economic, rather than social or moral. The stakeholder economy is said to be more efficient and better at taking long-term good not only for the soul, but also for economic growth.

One danger for Labour polihowever, is that broader ideals about making British society fairer, more civilised and democratic will be neglected or discredited if the narrow economic claims made by the stakeholder lobby are seen to fail. Another is the danger that by focusing economic policy on microeconomic supply-side issues, such as corporate governance and financial regulation, a Labour government will be distracted from the infinitely more important task of managing demand for full employment and

rapid growth. The only real economic debate in the general election now looks like being the clash between stakeholders and free marketeers. Labour will claim that short-termism and low investment are at the root of Britain's alleged economic failure; the Tories will insist that their free-market policies have energised the economy and now promise to make Britain

the most dynamic and prosperous country in Europe.

1973 1975 1977

1979

1981

1971

This clash of ideas will no doubt throw up all kinds of interesting theories and statistics. This week, for example, Michael Kitson and Jonathan Michie, of Cambridge University, have published an article in the Economic Journal showing that Britain's net manufacturing investment be-tween 1979 and 1989 fell to oneseventh of its pre-1973 level. They see this decline as an unmitigated disaster and attribute it largely to shorttermism and the "role of the City of London in the functioning of the economy and the

formulation of policy".

Meanwhile, Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University, claims to have evidence that Labour's plans to regulate employment and adopt the European social chapter could destroy three million jobs. Neither of these claims

nor any others like them will ever settle the question of whether the British economy would benefit from more or less regulation. Every statistic on one side can be matched by some figure the other side can quote. In the Kitson-Michie article, for example, there is a footnote which admits that Britain's gross manufacturing investment in the 1980s was almost identical to that in Germany and France. The difference was that Britain scrapped far more of its outdated and uncompetitive factories. Many of these were the legacy of state-sponsored overinvestment in industries such as steel, shipbuilding and cars.

A general election is certainnot the appropriate forum for settling such arcane academic disputes - especially when there is another issue of far greater economic substance which the politicians really could get their teeth into. This is the incredible

1983

1985

EMPLOYEES AND SELF-EMPLOYED IN EMPLOYMENT

incompetence of British monetary, fiscal and exchange-rate policy since 1976, when Jim Callaghan made his famous speech repudiating Keynesian economics and Denis Healey blazed the monetarist trail for Twenty years on, it is surely time for a total review - one

might almost say a witch-hunt into — this catastrophic experiment. By abandoning the active management of demand, which had been the centrepiece of economic policy since the Keynesian revolution, the monetarist zealots did not merely create two horrendous recessions. They also managed to wreck any hope of a free-market miracle in the late

We will never know whether the labour market and financial liberalisation of the 1980s really did strengthen the economy, because John Major's demand management policies deliberately pushed the economy into recession just as the supply-side reforms were taking hold. And even today, the Treasury's determination to repress demand growth to around the "trend rate" 2.5 per cent means there are no tangible gains from the Thatcher revolution which voters can identify.

In exactly the same way,

framework of demand management - which neither Tony Blair nor Gordon Brown have ever seen fit to question - will make it literally impossible to judge whether a Labour government's supply-side policies can create full employment, or indeed do any good at

1991

By far the most important and mysterious - question of political economy in Britain today is why politicians of all parties have joined this conmanagement. The Government, I suppose, is reluctant to debate macroeconomic policy because most of the blame for wrecking the Thatcher experiment would then fall personally on John Major.

Labour's silence on macroeconomics is partly motivated by fear of the financial markets. But I think there is also a more sinister motive: many Labour politicians do not want to believe that a market economy could be made to create and maintain full employment simply by manipulating monetary policy and fiscal policy

and exchange rates. Perhaps socialists simply prefer to believe that achieving prosperity is impossible without root and branch social reform. If so, they should take a look at France and Spain. There they can see the disasters that befall deflationary socialist governments that choose to keep millions in the dole queues, instead of allowing a market economy the oxygen of demand which it needs to prosper and grow.

'Surf' boards on the lookout for shysters in cyberspace

Paul Durman on the fight against

Internet.

the financial villains on the Internet

yberspace is the final frontier in the endless war between investment regulators and the financially unscrupulous. The Internet crossed over into the mainstream in 1995, creating an enormous new medium for unscrupulous financial advertising and the promotion of fanciful investment schemes. The Securities and Investments Board, the UK's senior financial watchdog, went online recently and is now surfing for shysters.

- 11

As the S1B recognises, the creative anarchy of the Internet and the box-ticking bureaucracy of financial regulation is not a marriage made in heaven. Martin Hollobone, SIB executive officer, says it is "a case of tightly drafted legislation meets cyberspace punks".

The Personal Investment Authority, the body responsible for private investors, does not allow investments to be arranged over the Internet because its rules require direct offer advertisements to be made in printed form. So while you can use the "net" to insure your home and its contents

against fire and theft since general insurance is not covered by the Finanacial Services Act you have to rely on more traditional methods to arrange the investment will pay off your morigage. The The dress this anachronism in a paper on the multimedia age which will be

have been

Attempts

jurisdictional problems

raised by a genuinely world-

wide computer network. Eff-

ective policing is going to

depend on considerable international co-operation.

SIB has come across several

instances of what look like

unauthorised investment

businesses, and has inter-

vened "to ascertain what

exactly is going on". But it

has yet to take legal action.

As ever, the Americans are

ahead of us. Over the last

few months, the Securities &

Exchange Commission has

put a stop to several alleged

investment scams. In one, a

company raised more than

\$3 million from 20,000 in-

vestors who were invited to

share in enormous profits

from a worldwide telephone

lottery, with a purported

income of \$300 million a

week. Bob Burson, a lawver

with the SEC's Chicago of-

fice, said an important rea-

son for the rapid growth of

Mr Hollobone said the

for those sending messages over the Internet. Mr Hollobone expects the Internet place increasing demands on the SIB's resources, though it is clearly possible monitor all its output. He is obvjously reluctant to tics the SIB home in on

problems for watchdogs

tors can seek problems by running varimade in the US to force up the prices of thinly traded ous key words through one shares via the Internet. The of the Internet "search en-Stock Exchange rather glibgines". WebCrawler, one of the leading search tools, found 47 "hits" on prime ly asserts that the UK does not face this problem. though it was unable to bank guarantees. The problems with the explain why. The immediate worries about the Internet Internet may increase as are the apparent anonymity people become more accusthat it can offer and the

tomed to buying goods and services on-line. Although many UK financial services companies are experimenting with their own web-sites, most have stopped short of setting up inter-active facilities - for fear of computer hackers setting out to corrunt company data,

Independent Insurance has been bolder than most. In conjunction with Bervale Mead, the broker, it has set up The Insurance Club on the "net" to offer specially designed cover for home contents, buildings and computers. Independent is confident that its encryption devices protect itself and its customers' credit and details. Mr Hollobone said the SIB does not want to stand in the way of the enthusiasm for opportunities created by the Internet. But he added: "We are very concerned that investors don't treat it as a wonderful new technological development without

Students can now learn how to cope with stakeholders

S tudents are being given the opportunity to experience the problems companies face in trying to balance the needs of different stakeholders when making business decisions. The National Westminster/The Times Business Ethics Essay Competition for undergraduates has set a business conundrum to be solved taking heed of the interests of all the parties.

The problem was set in the autumn long before Tony Blair declared that Labour wanted a stakeholder society. Students are invited to consider what John Smith, chief executive of Food Chain Stores.

might do when trying to close a suburban branch. The chain needs to overhaul its operations, get rid of old stores and replace them with larger ones. The branch serves a large number of low-income families, but would not allow sufficient expansion to increase the

number of lines on the shelves and improve profitability.

Shareholders will benefit from the savings of closing an uneconomic branch, but Mr Smith has received hundreds of

Essay contest poses a question of ethics, writes Lindsay Cook



Lindsay Cook and Derek Wanless are pictured with Merlin Wilcox, who won the competition last year

protest letters from customers and is greeted by protestors and reporters. Staff are unhappy that they may lose their jobs. He has to decide whether to serve the community at the expense of shareholders, or to find another solution.

Many bank chief executives

have faced similar decisions

when trying to close the last remaining branch in rural areas. NatWest has a code of conduct to guide the actions of all employees. Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest Group, said at the time of the launch: Ethics in business

honesty, it's about the values of the people you work with and the way you balance diff-erent stakeholder interests." Mr Wanless is a judge for the competition, which closes on February 29. The others include Peter Stothard, Editor of

The Times: Julia Neuberger, chairman of Camden and Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust; John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress; and John Drummond, managing director, Integrity Works. The judges will select the best six essays, and invite the authors to debate the dilemma with them. From the six, a winner will be selected, who will receive a prize of £3,000, plus a £3,000 award for the university or college. The sec-£2,000 and £1,000 with matching cheques for their colleges. published in The Times.

Entry forms are available from Paul Osgood, NatWest Group, Corporate Affairs Department, 2nd floor, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

To: John Hill, Director of Industry, Corby Industrial Development Centre, Grosvenor House, George Street, Corby, Northants NN17 1TZ. FAX: 01536 401374 <u>Address</u> <u>Postcode</u> or call on 01536 262571 Nobedy does it Better

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HUNT FOR THE MISSING MILLIONS: PARTENE

How Talbot polished Maxwell's Mirror

Administrator refused to let MGN be bought on the cheap

The £370 million plac-ing of 54 per cent of Mirror Group Newspapers' shares in the autumn of 1993 represented the glittering prize for John Talbot, the senior administrator. Not only had he done battle with the "Maxfactor". but he had emerged victorious from "Mirrorgate".

Talbot always perceived the controlling stake in Mirror Group as the potential jewel in Robert Maxwell's broken crown. In the dark days of December 1991, MGN's share price had been suspended, for the second time, "pending clarification of the company's financial position". The initial suspension, following Robert Maxwell's disappearance at sea, had seen the quote frozen at 77p. The second halt to dealings came at 125p: the price at which Maxwell had floated 49 per cent of MGN's shares the preceding May.

The MGN share stake, controiled by Robert Maxwell Holdings, was initially thought to amount to 51 per cent. This was the belief shared by the outside world and the administrators until the "untouchables" discovered that Maxwell's clandestine share purchases had raised the interest to 54.8 per cent. When the insolvency practitioners originally applied for an administration order over RMH, the court was told that the administrators' ability to hold the MGN share block together and prevent individual banks from selling shares that they held a charge over, could prove highly beneficial

If sales of stock reduced the holding below 50.01 per cent. any premium for control would be lost. Talbot recalls: "I controlled the shares, but could not sell them without the consent of the chargeholders or, in extreme circumstances, ially, the banks could not take possession of the shares and sell them without my consent, or the

consent of the court." Talbot's suggestion to the four banks - NatWest, Midland, Lloyds and Goldman Sachs - was that he should continue to control the shares and work closely with MGN to stabilise the company, while liaising with them. Talbot let it be known that he did not object to the banks taking control of the shares if they acted as a unit, but he would strenuously oppose any attempt to break ranks by way of premature share sales. Talbot points out: "Fortunately, none

of this became necessary extremely supportive. I continfragmentation never became

During the early days, Talbot experienced serious mis-givings about MGN's ability to survive. Maxwell Communication Corporation looked destined to follow the private empire into administration (as it did) and it appeared that MGN could easily go the same way. Talks with Ernest Burrington, MGN's recently appointed chairman, and his co-directors, had left Talbot with the impression that the board was still suffering from shock. Maxwell's death and the discovery that approxi-mately half of MGN's pension fund assets of £520 million were missing had taken their toll. Directors consulted lawyers at every turn. As Talbot puts it: "The focus was inward looking.

The financial position of MGN was critical and accountants Ernst & Young had been commissioned to prepare a report for the lending banks that were owed more than £300 million. Talbot urged the banks to support the publishing house. Melbourn, of NatWest, and Louis Franks, of Midland: "They persuaded the other lenders to agree to a standstill and ongoing support."
Talbot informed Burrington

that although he did not intend to become a director he did intend to become closely involved in MGN's affairs and that he or his colleague. Bruce Gordon, would like to sit in on board meetings. At the first "sit-in", Talbot noted that the directors were surrounded by a cabal of City advisers and lawyers. The essence of Talbot's message, whispered into Burrington's ear, was "spend more time on strategy. analysing the past". Talbot was determined to combat the "inward focus".

To what extent had MGN been damaged? Would more black holes open up? With such questions in the air. MGN was not saleable at this stage, other than at a knockdown price. Talbot was determined not to let a third party snap up MGN on the cheap and duly discovered that the shareholder banks felt much the same way. Talbot reflects: The media felt somewhat differently. Their focus was on the various parties expressing

Pearson, publisher of the



John Talbot, left, was impressed by David Montgomery, but bankers had to be convinced the political leaning of the Mirror would not be affected

Financial Times, was the first to throw its hat in the ring. Frank Barlow, Pearson's chief executive, declared that the company was looking at the opportunity of purchasing MGN. Burrington promptly opined that Pearson could deliver the guarantees of noninterference in editorial which would enable MGN to continue in its present mould". No sooner had Pearson pronounced than Richard Stott. ror, revealed his plans for a management buyout of MGN. supported by Electra, the venture capital specialists. Come the new year of 1992 and Pearson publicly pulled out. As Talbot drily remarks: They announced their decision to withdraw before asking us if the shares were for Lonrho, which then owned The Observer, also cast a fleeting glance.

Sir Peter Parker, former chairman of British Rail, agreed to head up Stott's MBO. Talbot held talks with Stott's team and emphasised that he did not favour a rapid sale. In order to dampen

speculation, Talbot publicly stated that the controlling block of shares would not be sold in the short term. No sooner had Talbot spoken than Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Dublin-based Independent Newspapers, let it be known that he was considering a bid for MGN. By the summer of 1992, Burrington had resigned and Sir Robert Clark, MGN's fourth chair-

500 - massively below 1991's 125p offer for sale price — this placed a value of around £100 million on the jewel that Talbot was patiently polish-

Melvyn Marckus charts John Talbot's epic sale of Robert Maxwell's 54 per cent stake in MGN

man in eight months, faced an strengthened and had initiatinevitably stormy AGM. ed a dialogue along these lines inevitably stormy AGM. Overall losses, as a by-product of pension fund manipulation. amounted to the thick end of £500 million. During the storm, some shareholders proclaimed that "buckets of whitewash" had been poured over MGN's directors.

As the storm subsided. MGN's shares were thawed after a seven-month freeze. At

ing. Speculation persisted that a stake was being accumulated and O'Reilly duly emerged as a 2 per cent shareholder. Both Talbot and advisers NM Rothschild had long taken the view that MGN's management needed to be

with Sir Robert. Earlier in the

year, several third parties had

approached Talbot with pro-

posals to inject new manage

ment, invariably in return for

a significant share stake at a

relatively insignificant price.

Talbot and the banks, it was

suggested, would then be at

liberty to dispose of their

holdings at the higher values

that would result from the gogo achievements of the new management. In Talbor's words: "I did not find these proposals attractive because I could see no reason why we should not implement a similar strategy and obtain all the upside for the benefit of the

banks and the creditors." Such proposals, one of which had come from Hambros, had been rejected. The Hambros proposal, put forinvolved a management team led by David Montgomery, former Editor of Today. Beaver had subsequently informed Talbot that, regardless of the original proposal, Montgomery's team was still interested in becoming involved.

Talbot eventually met Montgomery and was impressed by his strategies. He was also impressed by Montgomery's colleagues, John Allwood, who would fill the vacant slot of finance director. and Murdoch MacLennan, the prospective production director. In line with Talbot's straddling act, a meeting between Montgomery's camp

bankers was arranged at Arthur Andersen's offices. Talbot recalls: "One of many issues that the bankers focused on was the political direction of the Daily Mirror. The bankers requested assurances that this would not change. These as-surances were given and both the bankers and myself were reassured by the presence of Lord Hollick on the incoming team. The political direction of the newsp to myself and the bankers because we believed this was a major commercial benefit to the company. One of the bankers stated categorically that his bank would not be associated with any action that

and the quartet of secured

press." A series of meetings was arranged with a view to obtaining support for Montgomery & Co from key MGN directors, but no sooner was this process initiated, than the news leaked. Tremors shook the Labour Party, fearful that the political complexion of the Daily Mirror was in danger of

could lead to a change in the

political balance of the British

being mud-packed. This, in turn, heightened the risk of internal strife at MGN. The board meeting, to consider the management changes. was brought forward to October 13. It was no secret that Talbot, MGN's controlling sharehold-er, favoured Montgomery's appointment, but support for the dour Ulsterman was by no means unanimous and the atmosphere during the run-up to the board meeting was tense. Talbot held the ace of trumps. He could, with more than 50 per cent of the votes. threaten to call an EGM and attempt to railroad through Montgomery's appointment. Talbot knew this, as did MGN's directors. In the event, Talbot never played the card, a move that would have farned internal politics. Talbot much preferred to leave the onus with the directors.

Enter Montgomery, closely followed by Allwood, MacLen-nan and Lord Hollick, a development that finally put an end to speculation over the possibility of O'Reilly mounting a takeover assault. David Banks succeeded Stott as Editor of the Daily Mirror. In Talbor's words: "Montgomery and the bankers were accused by the media of attempting to move the Daily Mirror to the right. This was incredibly ironic in view of the banks' perspective and the undertak-

ing given by Montgomery." Talbot continued to "sit in" with the new management as MGN's recovery strategy was put in place: a strategy punctuated by press reports that Lord Hollick wanted to acquire control of MGN. Lord Hollick finally declared that he could not fully support MGN's management. Talbot reiterated his support for the management and, in March 1993, Lord Hollick bowed out of the boardroom.

MGN's results for 1992 ushered in restructuring provi-sions of £116.5 million, which saw 1991's pre-tax profit of £47.3 million replaced with a loss of £84 million. But, with operating profits up 16 per cent to £97.5 million, the share price continued to rise: to 115p. Early in September. Talbot

revealed that MGN and Max-well's "private side" com-panies had finally agreed "substantially" all mutual claims. News of an upsurge in 1993's mid-year pre-tax profits from £15.3 million to close on E70 million provided the platable to declare that he was planning a sale of "up to all" his near 55 per cent shareholding.

Support for the issue proved strong enough to allow Roth-schild and Cazenove to close their "book building" exercise early. The target striking price of 170p was achieved, which valued the jewel at £373 million. Talbot's timing — with media stocks in vogue — proved impeccable. MGN's current quote: 190p.

Melvyn Marckus, City Editor, will analyse Arthur Ander-sen's £700 million of realisations in his Saturday column

ACCOUNTANCY

THE headlines that greeted the \$200 million transfer pricing adjustment suffered by Glaxo Wellcome at the hands of the Inland Revenue reflect the growth of interest in this area. in a survey of more than 200 multinational companies carr-

ied out by Ernst & Young last year, 82 per cent said transfer pricing was the most important international tax issue they face — no other tax area was identified as a major concern by even half of respondents.

A clash between multinationals and governments on this issue was almost inevitable. Governments are keen to improve their balance of payments by attracting lucrative commercial activities to their territory; corporations are concerned with returns to shareholders. Businesses are increasingly organised along operational not national lines, making it difficult to allocate activity - and hence taxable profit - to particular areas.

There has, for years, been a suspicion among tax authorities that multinational companies set transfer prices - at which companies within a group pay each other for goods and services when these cross fiscal borders - in order to minimise taxable profits and thus avoid tax.

The Organisation for Eco-nomic Co-operation and Development was trying to win consensus among member states for a common aoproach to transfer pricing in 1979. But the US Internal Review Service blew apart these efforts by introducing statutory transfer pricing rules in 1986. These rules give the IRS wide powers to investigate

The price is right or else



Lindsay Dodsworth says transfer pricing is a key tax issue

transfer pricing abuses and impose penalties. while companies have to meet documentation and disclosure

Other countries took the US lead, although most, including the UK. continue to rely on domestic legislation requiring transactions between connected companies to take place at an "arm's-length" price - ie. as if they were independent companies. The OECD has tried to bring about order. The UK authorities have not been inactive, as Glaxo found. Its case concerned the Revenue's right to go back beyond six years to adjust "open" assessments (where no agreement has been reached on a tax bill) where transfer pricing was not directly under dispure, rather than the technical basis of the adjustment itself. An amendment to the 1996 Finance Bill confirmed the Revenue's power to make such

Kenneth Clarke's Budget

pledge to bring transfer pric-

ing within the self-assessment regime did not appear, it can only be a matter of time, which creates the spectre of a USstyle penalties regime, if the taxpayer and authorities cannot agree on the "right" price.

If there is such a thing as the "right" transfer price, it is normally deemed to be a socalled comparable uncontrolled price, which follows the "arm's-length" principle. Such an uncontrolled price is hard to find, and, even if available, unlikely to be in the public domain. Internal transfer pricing

may well not even matter to some multinationals. Onceunthinkable whispers are gathering momentum would it not be simpler to split profits between countries that have added value to a transaction using a formula agreed in advance with the tax authorities - the ultimate advance pricing agreement? Purists and theoreticians

will throw up their hands in horror at such a suggestion. but as businesses move from territorial towards purely operational lines, what value do the traditional transactionbased methods of determining profits have? Under the above scenario, a company can ger on with making profits and adding value for shareholders without concern for the tax cost. It would also relieve tax authorities of the need to invest resources to police transfer pricing, at a saving to the local exchequer. Surely, this is to the benefit of both governments and taxpayers?

LINDSAY DODSWORTH Corporate Tax Partner at Ernst & Young

Is the tail wagging the dog?

own in Moorgate Place, the leadership of the English ICA undoubtedly become very depressed with the attitude of journalists. All we seem to chronicle is defeat after defeat for the institute's worthies. The answer, of course, would be for the institute to achieve one or several of its objectives. Sadly, I have again this week to tell of another defeat.

But there is a bit of a silver lining. The English ICA seems to have caught up with the consequences of community action, stakeholding, effective grassroots activism, call it what you will.

The case in point was straightforward and you can see why the institute did not seem at all worried about it. A small practitioner in Liverpool called John Cook read through his regular mailings from the institute. He noticed a mooted change in the education syllabus: a move from the old straightforward system of exam questions to one where choices could be made to allow people to shine at their particular specialisms. The institute was asking him for a response to its proposals. He sent one. He argued that this was moving the exam content from that which provided a common bond through the qualification. He argued this

was contrary to the institute's charter. He received the sort of reply you might expect. He wrote further indignant letters. He was the sort of person the institute would assume had little interest in education plans. "My response," he will tell you. "was listened to only in a public relations sense". It annoyed him. But with membership of almost 110,000, the institute knows it is not going to please everyone. But Cook did not give up.

Last week, having produced the requisite 250 signatures to call a meeting, the issue was put to the vote. And the institute was defeated. No wonder that the insti-

houn, looking thunderous, sat in silence. With a special mailing to all members, counsel's opinion and two expensive chaps from Linklaters & Paines at the meeting you are looking at a large amount being spent on having a custard pie placed firmly in your face. The im-portant issue is not that of education and the structure of the exams. It is that members are fighting back effectively. Ac-



Robert BRUCE.

countancy bodies have always had a rump of grouchy members who would never agree on anything. The difference now is that people are more articulate and effective in their disapproval. The certified accountants found this last year when they were trounced by rebels led by Prem Sikka. The issues then, and last week at the institute, were not technical. They are issues of deep dissatisfaction with the remoteness of power.

Cook's real gripe is not the educational

changed its rules to allow the executive more decision-making powers. The arguments then were simple. Life was increasingly complex. Detailed issues should be dealt with by committees guided by a small core. Council could debate and vote on the principles and final decisions. The result, in Cook's view, is that "the executive tail is wagging the council dog far too much". He is an omsider. He has no detailed knowledge of this. But he picks up the signs. "All my letters to the president were passed down to the executive to answer and the president is reduced to a rubber stamp." In the past, none of this would have surprised anyone and the opposition would have got nowhere. But Prem Sikka's effort at the certified accountants has resulted this month in a glossy consultative document to all members. It talks of devolving power, of creating a federal structure, and has a cover depicting Earth viewed from space. It cannot be long before their members are setting up treehouses in the council chamber in the fight for reform. Equally, the end of last week's meeting at the English ICA produced another perennial rebel, Jeff Wooler, virtually setting up shop to canvass signatures to force a special meeting to make the annual presidential election involve all members. Cook may go for a special meeting to reverse the 1993 changes that enhanced executive power.

At the heart sit the ICA leaders, no longer knowing what anyone wants or how to achieve it. With a members' vote due in June on a merger with CIMA, the management accounting body, this is worrying. The only consolation, as I said, is that they are not alone in finding the traditional methods of wielding power do not seem to work any more.

THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 25 1996	EQUITY	PRICES 29
TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price of the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and pri	158 112 Strafe Dolgton 159 43 159 74 635 Caterban 771 30 251 200 1900 canella 170 - 4 18 186 120 1900 1900 1900 1900 1900 1900 1900	Proc. Proc
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FILM I

Al Pacino is the cop hunting down Robert De Niro in the tense and atmospheric thriller, Heat



FILM 2

Little Control

Pedro Almodovár rediscovers his touch, and finds a new maturity, in The Flower of my Secret





FILM 3

Sabrina proves a remake too far for Sydney Pollack, and Harrison Ford is no modern-day Bogart



■ FILM 4

Whitney Houston's latest is Waiting to Exhale, a great soundtrack with a minor movie attached

Heavyweight champs win in a knockout

CINEMA: De Niro and Pacino

turn up the Heat, and

Geoff Brown gets blown away; plus the other new releases

urveying the after-math of one more robbery in Los Angeles, Al Pacino's workaholic detective admits: "They're good." Of course they're good; their boss is Robert De Niro, an actor who, in this film at least, never wastes a gesture, and keeps you riveted by his eyes alone. The film is Heat. It lasts

nearly three hours. Writer and director Michael Mann needs the space, not so much to bombard us with action, but to draw us into the characters as they play games of cat and mouse, trust and betrayal, in a lonely city of night and neon.

A lesser director would fling his two stars together, like fighting cocks, as soon as the credits roll. Mann, bouncing back after the absurd melange of The Last of the Mohicans, keeps them separate, explor-ing their private circum-stances. Pacino's life is chaotic. De Niro's a void. Pacino's third marriage fragments as his wife is squeezed out by his work and the tension needed to keep him "sharp, on the edge". De Niro prides himself on having no ties, until he meets a budding graphic de-signer (Amy Brennemann) who finds strength in his silence.

At times the alternation between personal lives becomes over-schematic. Occasionally the dialogue grates. Pacino's wife (Diane Venora) does not talk, she gives speeches: she even utters the word "detritus". But blemishes are forgotten as Mann burrows deep into the human consequences of crime on both sides of the law, and Dante Spinotti's camera prowls round the landscape of restaurants, deserted drive-ins, banks and hotels.

When the stars finally share movie, the tone is low-key, almost comic. They chat in a coffee-shop. They talk about dreams. "So you never wanted a regular-type life? Pacino asks. Like hunter and prev in westerns and war dramas, both sides show respect. Both sides also know what fate and duty have in store.

Stripped to its bones, Heat may sound trite. But Mann puts so much flesh on his Sizemore all make their mark.

Heat Warner West End 15, 170 mins Excellent crime drama with De Niro and Pacino

The Flower of my Secret Curzon Mayfair 15, 110 mins Pedro Almodóvar grows up

Sabrina Empire, PG, 127 mins Antique Cinderella story Waiting to Exhale

Warner West End 15, 123 mins Unsubtle drama of female camaraderie The Innocent

Sleep MGM Haymarket 15, 99 mins Creaky British thriller Madagascar Skin ICA Cinema, 93 mins

Very artistic.

very infuriating

The Most Desired Man MGM Swiss Centre 18, 98 mins German comedy about sexual identity

Not for Heat the Identikit crooks of most Hollywood

And when action is called for. Mann certainly delivers the goods. Even the most jaded eyes should blink as De Niro's team robs a bank, only to lose lives and booty in a nerve-racking shootout on the street. Just when it looked as though the crime genre might a scene, their first ever in a atrophy into cold pastiche, Heat applies the heat.

After the gruelling misogyny and slapdash plotting of Kika. vou may be forgiven for flinching from another film by Pedro Almodóvar. But The Flower of my Secret proves that you should never cast a director into darkness forever. Not that the Spanish iconoclast has abandoned his zany tricks or his fashion sense. Though the tones may be muted, every dress, bead and wall still contribute to a unique colour symphony. The disorientated heroine on the surface another of Almodovar's women on the verge of a

strong primary colours; blues and reds. The walls might be peach, or some pastel shade. Room is found, too, for bizarre diversions: a screaming contest on TV; a training session to help doctors secure organs for transplant

> it has one - is the condition of Leo (subtly portrayed by Marisa Paredes), an authoress of escapist trash. Her first problem is physical: she cannot pull off her boots. Then her fiction turns dark and twisted: her marriage to an absent husband, serving with Nato, reaches a crisis, and the support systems of family and friends are failing. Almodóvar gently explores her isolation. savouring the paradoxes of life, allowing comedy when required: a welcoming, tender sentiment, too, especially when the heroine returns to her village roots for sustenance from Mother Earth.

But at the film's heart - and

in place of the usual gaudy caricatures. Almodóvar's main characters almost appear to be real people and, as Leo and her new-found male friend, a roly-poly pub-lisher, blend minds, hearts and, in some senses, genders. our own hearts are warmed. Almodóvar still has his fun in The Flower of My Secret, but he is no longer just a child thumbing his nose at the

The writers were treading on thin ice in Sabrina when they let Harrison Ford's businessman tell Julia Ormond, the chauffeur's daughter: "It's the Nineties. Sabrina." It so patently is not: and the Cinderella romance that furnished Billy Wilder with his film of the same name refuses to suit the times. Even 40 years ago the material was none too sparkling, though Audrey Hepburn, Humphrey Bogari and William Holden made it appear so. The present cast are in no position to manufacture fizz.

Ford is dull, ice-cold. Some of the chill may suit the character - a bachelor in a midlife crisis - but surely he should demonstrate a twinge of feeling as Sabrina enters his heart. Ormond has no allure either. Whatever spark she showed in First Knight has been snuffed out by the glamour machine. The director is Sydney Pollack (see interview right); watching this lumbering dinosaur you wonder how he ever made Tootsie, one of the best modern comedies.

If no audience exists for Sabrina, Waiting to Exhale has one almost panting at the door. They are young, female and identify easily with the film's black women, whose lives are devoted to talking about sex. having it. and visiting the beauty parlour. The film, based on Terry McMillan's novel, no doubt began with higher ambitions

than magazine fiction to be read under a hairdrier; but its development is so bald and the colours so glossy that maga-zine fiction is the result. The actor Forest Whitaker directed, although the names that matter are Angela Bassett. who gives the only meaty performance, and singer Whitney Houston, whose presence almost turns the film into a soundtrack CD with

The Innocent Sleep, a British film, self-financed by 27vear-old director Scott Michell and his team, makes you wonder how fresh young heads can harbour such stale ideas. Little is original in this story about the hunt for an innocent witness to murder. Michael Gambon, the leering heavy, took his performance down from the shelf, dust included. Annabella Sciorra's chain-smoking, ballsy reporter is another unhappy cliché. Any novelty arises from Rupert Graves, usually found draped round a sofa in some Merchant-Ivory film Now he lives in Cardboard City, and stumbles round barely distinguishable from the London

fog and rubble. Still, you cannot help admiring the movie for not giving in script fatigue. Michell. whose last film experience was driving Elizabeth Hurley to work for Beyond Bedlam, shows undoubted talent, and generates a few sparks from hackneyed situations. But next time, chaps, don't waste your time reviving a corpse.

John Hannah, wasted in The Innocent Sleep as a bantering colleague of Sciorra, also appears in Chris Newby's infuriating Madagascar Skin. Newby is a master designer of curious and lyrical images: Anchoress and his shorts prove that. But dramatic momentum is not his line, least of all in this whimsical titbit commissioned by the British Film Institute. Two characters meet on a deserted beach. Hannah, haunted and tentative, has a facial birthmark shaped like Madagascar. Bernard Hill, a breezy rascal, is buried up to his neck in the sand. Moves are made toward a gay relationship, but instead of nurturing his characters Newby lets them fend for themselves among the cryptic imagery. The film, you soon realise, could stop at any time, or last forever.

Sonke Wortmann's The Most Desired Man. a local hit in Germany 18 months ago. barrels along pleasantly enough with a story culled from two gay comic books. Not that the film is pitched at homosexual audiences: the plight of Til Schweiger's heterosexual hero, who shelters from his girlfriend's wrath in the apartment of a gay acquaintance, is played for broad, general comedy. Hollywood has shown interest in a remake, so beware.

Making Cinderella less Wilder

ven though he had a great time directing it. Sabrina is both the first When Sydney Pollack remade Sabrina, a lot of ghosts got in the and last remake Sydney Pollack intends to undertake. "I way, he tells David Robinson anticipated, of course, that the press would make comparito be intimidated by the origisons with the original, but I didn't realise it would be so nal. It's got a life of its own, he impossible for the film to be

"Just when it seemed the crime genre might atrophy into cold pastiche, Heat applies the heat": Robert De Niro and Val Kilmer in Michael Mann's cops and robbers caper

judged independently," he

says. "Even some reviewers

who really love the movie feel

obliged to qualify their praise

was a kamikaze undertaking.

but that the film ran so hard

over the Billy Wilder version

that it ran right through and

though, I feel that Sabrina has

marvellous mythical story ele-

ments that bear telling over

and over. It is enough of a

fairytale to be told in many

different ways, and I wanted

to make it in a Nineties way.

just as the original movie belonged to its own era, the

last years of Hollywood inno-

two or three times Paramount

talked about doing it. I didn't

want to do a remake and I sure as hell didn't want to do a

remake of a Wilder film. But then Harrison Ford, whom I

admire and who was attached

to the project, asked me to look

to analyse the problems in a

screenplay you get hooked on

finding the solution; and that's

what got me involved in this case. I realised that Hum-

phrey Bogart was the least

explored character in the origi-

nal film and the most contem-

porary. I felt that Harrison

could make something of the

role if it was properly written

for him.

edge to it.

relationship.

er and Ernest Lehman.

"Sometimes when you start

at the old movie again.

"I actually refused, the first

cence.

"Tough as remakes are.

made it to the other side.

"The New York Times said it

with 'Dare I say it, but . . .?"

said. You make your own version. He came to New York to work with us. His energy was phenomenal. By the end of the day David Rayfiel and I would be exhausted and he was still thinking up new scenes. He would propose changes so wild that they shocked me. We didn't use many of his suggestions, but he stimulated us tremendously.

He came to the premiere and was just touched as hell. He loved it because it was a completely fresh approach. He calls quite often to ask how the

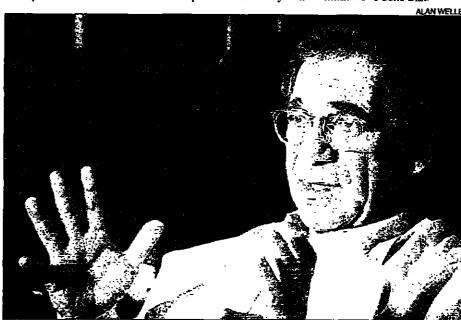
film is doing, and is even thinking about turning it into

Wilder's own approach seems also to have been encouraging, if more guarded than the writer's. "Of course I called him before agreeing to do it." Pollack says. wouldn't have done it without his blessing. I sent him the script and spent a long afternoon chatting with him. We talked a lot about the problems of updating the story. what works today and what doesn't. We didn't talk in pageby-page terms, but in a philo-

sophical way. "I spent the whole day with

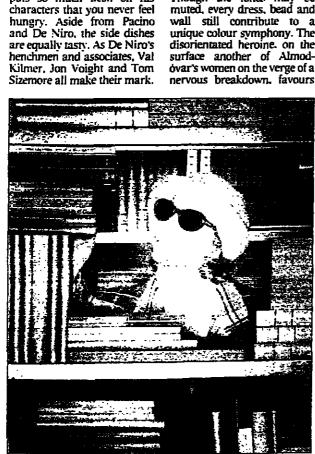
him when we showed him the film. It wasn't easy for either of us, but he was wonderful, very encouraging, very easy. He understood what I was trying to do. When he saw the picture He said. This is hard for me and for you. You'll see one day, when someone will try to remake The Way We Were. You'll not find it an easy thing to watch.' But he said: 'It's good, pretty good. From Wilder that was big praise.

"I didn't want to make a Billy Wilder film, and couldn't. He has a special. amazing genius — acid wir. irony and a unique sense of drama. I didn't want to try to compete with Wilder and I didn't want my actors to have to compete with Audrey Hepburn and Bogart. I wanted to make a different movie; and I think we've done that."



Sydney Pollack, director of Sabrina: "I got interested in the idea of a film that would be indebted to the spirit of Fifties romantic comedies, but have a Nineties edge to it





Marisa Paredes as the woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown in Almodóvar's The Flower of my Secret



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CHOICE I

Oliver Knussen leads the London Sinfonietta in a night of premieres VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



CHOICE 2

... and Kurt Weill's Love Life receives its European premiere VENUE: Tonight at the Grand Theatre, Leeds

GLASGOW. The Crizen's opens its spring season with a free preview longht of Graham Greene's effervescent

Travels with my Aunt, Gdes Haverdal

Laing Citizens, Gorbels (0141-429 0022) Tonght, 7 30pm, Opens tomorrow then Tue-Sat 7 30pm Unit Mar 23 2

IPSWICH: Oliver Fore Davies and Diene Fletcher play John Ogdon and his wife in William Humble: Virtuoso, telling of the prants: s 1973 breakdown and what happened after

Wolsey, Cord Drivé (01473 253725) Opens (onight, 7 45pm Then Tue-Fri, 7 45pm, Sal, 8pm, mars Wed, 2 30pm, Sal, 4pm Until Feb 10

Barbicant Dagheler Creator of the Ballett Russes (0171-638 4141)
British Masseum Ofryo and Pyoto paintings (0171-636 1555) National Galletty Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) National Portreit Gallety Richard and Mona Coeway (0171-306 0055) Royal Academy Dand Hockney Drawing Balletty December (0171-439 7439) Tate Bill Woodrow, Fools' Gold, 15 bronzes 1891-887 8000) V & A. Jan Anthom India, Expressionist Prints

Art from India, Expressionist Prints (0171-938 8500) Whitechapet Emil Nolde (0171-502 7888)

LONDON GALLERIES





■ CHOICE 3 Graham Greene's

Travels with my Aunt is staged in Glasgow VENUE: Opens tonight



CHOICE 4

First night for -Naomi Wallace's violent new play," Slaughter City VENUE: From tonight at the Barbican Pit

LONDON

THE MAVERICKS Amarica's notical country band locks off a UK four landons. country band wors on a UK four longing, showing of their inapparations from the ballacts of Floy Orbition. Tony Bennett-sayle coording and more predictable not more but as but his but of Wesn It's a formula which has put the band in the bordom of a wave of modern acts, moving country music back to its inghist place at the heart of mains daminated with place at the heart of mains daminated with the secondar more from the Market. nghidi place at the hoart or man second popular music Yos-ha. Shepherde Bush Empire, W12 (0181-740 7474), fought and Fr. then Norwich, University of East Angle & 01603 956401), Jan 28 Manchester, University & 0161-1275 2500. Jan 29. Glasgow Royal Concert Hall & (0141-227 6511-11-110

227 5511₁ Jun 30 EXPLORATIONS 96 Oliver Vitus 900 and the Langon Sintersetts champion some of the invalidation windows from Europe and the US in tonight is concert. Gerofed in premieres

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank,
SEJ (0171-960 4242) 7 45pm (5) SLAUGHTER CITY "Denning night for a new play — violent, surreal and set in a plaughter-house — by Norm your will be usellent American poet and plauwinght, whose One Plea Spare played at the Bush last autumn. Bon Contab American

Conies directs
PR, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-6:8 8821) Tonight, 7pm. Then En-Tue, 7 (5pm. mat Sat, 2pm. §

E COMPANY Advan Laster, Shella Gab, Suphing Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bitterstreet musical on mamage, pro and confra. Domnar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-399 1732), Mon Sat. 7 30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 2 E) THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA by Joel Higgins, who also stars as this woman ser to be his next, "cirem this woman ser to be his next." One US rowewer called it "original, compelling and tim".

Aldwingth, Strand, WC2 (0171-416 6048). Now previewing tonight-Jan 30, 7,45pm, mail Set, 3pm. Opens Jan 31.

☐ FUNNY MONEY Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest larce. Rodney Bewes is the screty-med taxt-driver Playhouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401), Mon-Sai, 8p mats Thurs, 3pm and 5at, 5pm 🔞 ☐ THE GLASS MENAGERIE. Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoé Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is

Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sal, 7 30pm, Sal, 3pm AN IDEAL HUSBAND Trumphani erum for Peter Hall's oxoduction of

NEW RELEASES

◆ DANGEROUS MINOS (15)

Michelle Pledfor orings hope to an inner-ary school Predictable, rose-unted drama, director, John N. Smith MGMs: Better Street (0171-905 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

Odeors: Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426-919 574) UCI Whiteleys \$\infty\$ (0171-792 3332)

PMH GAME 17: Laughane acron vehicle for model Cing; Crewford, cast as an afformey in peri. With William Bashwin Director, Andrew Stopes. MGM Trocadero & (0171-134 0031) UCI Whiteleys & (0171-132 3332) Warner & (0171-137 4343)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Nicolas

Figgs: Vim Eirabett Shue Barbican (j. 10171-638 8991) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3233) MGMiss Fullson Road (0171-770 2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527, Swiss Centre (0171-439 4476) Notting Hill Cornett (j. 10171-727 6765; Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/ Batter Street (0171-935 2772) Warner 20171-437474

MUTE WITNESS (18) Mute girl

winesses a film studio munde Emplarating and cheeky fimilier set in Moscow, with Manna Sudine, Director

Antrony Waler Claphem Picture House (0171-499 3323: Warner (\$\infty\) (0171-437 4343)

PERSUASION (U) Jane Auction):

ENTERTAINMENTS

Figgis With Elisabeth Shue

E 10171 437 4343c

FAIR GAME (15) Laughable acron

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts

compiled by Krls Anderson **ELSEWHERE**

BRISTOL Suprano Catherine King and the excellent pentis Wayne Marshall open the BBC's functione Russan sense rodey, with an entering selection of works by Strawtsky St George's, Brandon Hill (0117 923 0359) Today, 1pm (5)

LEEDS. Love Life, Kurt Weel's 3051 LEEDS. Love Life, Nurt Well 3 1057 Broadmay muscled, gets its European premiere by Opera North tonight. It's a show years ahead of its time (1948) about manage, but marriage seen through 150 years of American history and with a vaudeville team commenting anody from the seletims. Book and typics are by the much-married (and Lay Lemer, and Welf and Lote Lern's divorced and re-married (so it's kind of personal). For good measure thare are bags of great times along the way. bags of great times along the way Margaret Proces and Atan Oke sing the leads, Caroline Gawn directs and Wyn Daves conduct: Grand, New Briggare (0113-244 0971/ 245 9351) Tonigni, 7 15pm (6)

House full, returns only
Some sents available
Sents at all prices

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat. 7 45pm; mars Wed and Sat. 3pm 👸

Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play, set in an east London

possionate pays, so in an east conjunt bedsit where most of the characters have love troubles Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) Tonghi-Set, 8pm, Sun, 7pm; mats Sal, 4pm and Sun, 3pm,

Stanley Spendar, the parties whose desired considering by Parties whose desired considering they be partied whose desired considering they by Parties John Cand directs
National (Cottesion), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928, 2252), Previews tonight-Jan 31, 7 30pm, Opens Feb 1 \$\ince{6}\)

TWO TRAINS RUNNING Jorny

☐ RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB Final week for

Americans. Set in 1969 Pittsburgh, in a restaurant due to be demoished. Pauline Randalt directs. Trileycle, Kilbum High Road, KiW6 (1171-228 1000). Prenews begun lonight, 8pm, opens Jan 29, 7pm. [5] THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's essessment of theatre showing in London

■ SWEETHEART New play by Nick Rosso, author of the acclaimed Peaches: Joe Dutting in the title role of the much-lowed but leckless and usually start Charlie Upstaire, Royal Court Stoane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Previews begin ronight, 7,45pm, opens Jan 30, 7pm C) THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Jeremy Smoon plays the ebulier's Toad in the now annual rerum of the National Theatre production Sall designful
Old Vie, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171928 6655) Mon-Sal, 7 30pm; mars Wed.
Sal, 2,30pm (5)

LONG RUNNERS UNIG HONNEHS

☐ Buddy Stand @1771-930 8800)

☐ Croxy for You Prince Eduard (0171-734 8951)

☐ Deed Guilty Apolic (0171-494 5063)

⑤ Miss Seigon Druy Lane (0171-494 5063)

⑤ Miss Seigon Druy Lane (0171-494 5063)

⑤ Miss Seigon Druy Lane (0171-494 5063)

☐ Stantight Express
Apolic Victoria (0171-498 8955)

⑥ Sunset Boulevard Accepts (0171-344 0055)

☐ The Women in Black Fortune (0171-806 2205)

Julies, Tony Armatrading and George Hams are among the strong cast for the latest of August Wisson's decalogue of plays about 20th-century black CINEMA GUIDE

Amanda Root Director, Roger Michell Barbican (6) (0171-638 8991) THE UNDERMEATH #151 The classic 1940s theller Class Cross remade as a styrent puzzle by director Severn Soderbergh With Peter Gallagher McGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) Plaza (5) #0171-437 1234) Ritzy (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15) right's appropriate these with Denzel Viashington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling n West End (0171-369 1722)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF 115) Love and neroism atricts a choicea epidemic in 1830s Provence Pretty bictures, but little bomph, Jean-Pau Rapper eau dyects Oliver Matthew and Chelses (0171-351 3742) Curzon Raylair (0171-369 1720) Lumiera

mayser (9171-953-1729) **Lumiere** (9171-836-969)) **Odeon Kensington** (91426-914-666) **Richmond** (9181-33)

THE RUN OF THE COUNTRY (15) Wildowed lather and son tussle over tite and love Faded Institution with Albert Finney and US import Mad Ficesian Directed by Peter Fates. Piersiar Directed by Peter fates, Odeon Kensington (01426 914666)

Odeon Kensington (01426 314666)

SEVEN (18) Unserting and off-beat sand later thiller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Par Director Devid Fincher Berblean & (0171-638 8891)
Clapham Picture House (0171-458 3223) Gate & (0171-727 4043) MiGMiss Cholese (0171-352 5096) Folham Road (0171-370 2636) Tortenham Court Road (0171-370 2636) Tortenham Court Road (0171-370 5636) Swiss Cottage (01426 914966) Leicester Square (01426 915683) Swiss Cottage (01426 914966) Leicester Square (01426 915683) Swiss Cottage (01426 914966) Leicester Square (01426 915683) Swiss Cottage (01426 91496) Leicester Square (0171-269 3320) UCI William (0171-792 3332)

SHOWGIRLS (19) Las Verass

GIRLS (19) Las Veca stripper finds success is not everything Hollow late of hollow people, brazent, presented by director Paul Verhoeven MGMa: Baker Street (0.171-935.9772) elsea (0171-352 5096) Od Arch (01426 914501: Swiss Cottage 01426 914099) West End (01426 15574: UCI Whiteleys & (017:-792

◆ SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT (15) Julia Roberts as a journers wife lacing her husband's mideliny Take take with small pleasures. Lasse: Half Strom greats Lennes Malac motors Durall Firm Sedgmod, Sena Royalands MGHat Pulhum Road (S. 10171-276 2536 Trocaders (S. 10171-43 0031) Odeon Swiss Cottage (11408 914098) UCI Whiteleys (S. 10171-792 3027, Warmer (S. 10171-437 4343)

Painting on a broader canvas

VISUAL ART: Charles Hall finds a 'dead' discipline alive and on show in Liverpool

like David Leapman's drawing: I like his fussy, curly, rather bouncy line, and the diffident way it sinks back into his painting's dark background. On the other hand, most of the time I have no idea what it is he thinks he's drawing. Apparently the images in Doubletongued Knowability are all about sex. Well, perhaps they are, but I'm not at all sure that it really matters.

The painting has picked up the £20,000 first prize in the nineteenth John Moores Exhibition in Liverpool because Leapman really knows how to occupy a canvas. The four ovals (each filled by brightly coloured rectangles) provide the bold superstructure for all that nervous doodling, while the drawing helps to bind those apparently autonomous geometric forms into a precarious, spidery tension.

The John Moores is Britain's only national open-submission exhibition for "progressive" contemporary art. This time round there were 1,644 entries. The judges were the painter Basil Beattie. the painter and writer Timothy Hyman. Alex Kidson of the Walker Art Gallery, and the art historian and critic, Frances Spalding.

I wonder if the judges knew, when they selected it, that Leapman's use of various kinds of luminous paints means that the composition alters radically when viewed under ultra-violet or infra-red lights? Probably they did - it is hung in a little ghetto of highly sophisticated paintings that tease you with the possibility that they are about to unburden themselves of some great metaphysical truth. That takes its most literal form in Mark Wallinger's canvas, a grid of letters which turns out to read: "What have I done to deserve you? The question is perhaps less apt than another in the same series, "What do you hope to get out of me?". but then I think Wallinger would enjoy the banality.

A YEAR ago this week, Gerry Anderson and Radio 4 parted company. So extraordinary was the saga of Anderson Country that on Sunday, Mediumwave, the Radio 4 media programme, saw fit to mark the anniversary.

It did so via a diatribe by Anderson himself and the genial humour did little to camouflage the bitterness. Interestingly. Anderson took up the theme that he had been done down by middle England, the listener lobby that regards Radio 4 as its own. Anderson Country drew 16.000 critical letters to Feed-

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OF THE 1990# E.5

"TWO HOURS OF

DIAGNATIVE EXPER

Said to be all about sex: the John Moores award-winning Double-tongued Knowability, by David Leapman

Other artists are more subtle: Brad Lochore shows an apparently abstract grey and black image which turns out to be derived from the shadow of a ladder. Our struggle to attribute solid form to what turns out to be an effect of pure light condenses around the fact that the ladder, as a tool for passing from one level to another, is a perfect metaphor for the possibilities of - well. of metaphor in painting.

it is no accident that so many of the paintings in this part of the exhibition are as beautiful as they are intelligent. With its use of photorelated imagery and computerised printing techniques. James Brook's Road (With Raindrops, Eye), very nearly steps outside what one could conventionally accept as painting.

But this is a generation that has had to overcome its own conceptual hostility to painting in order to pick up a brush: they have been seduced into it. and their love of the material and its processes shows through in immaculate craftsmanship and disciplined subtlety of application.

Since there are so few shows devoted to painting, it is tempting to see the John Moores as a survey of contemporary developments - and then to take issue with its omissions. But we can never know who was rejected and who was too grand to enter. It's more useful simply to enjoy the exhibition as an opportunity to look closely at the kinds of painting that have

fallen by the critical wayside. The tense pink neck of the woman in Lucy Jones's Anniversury is the best thing she's painted in years, while Paul Gopal-Chowdhury's In the Realm of the Senses looks like a personal breakthrough, establishing a formal grammar which allows him to consider urban sleaze without indulging in the voyeurism he sets

out to criticise. Artists who have never doubted the tradition of painting may well never have asked themselves such hard ques-

Wallinger or Lochore. But formal curiosity is not restricted to the avant-garde: it's just that the intelligence at work in a painting by Leonard McComb or Hughie O'Donoghue does not register on the contemporary critical radar. Until we make space for

tions about their motivation as

reluctant converts such as

works like theirs, we won't have understood the problems and possibilities that continue to make the "dead" art of painting one of the liveliest and most contentious fields in British art.

The John Moores Liverpool Exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery (0151-207 0001), until

Country killed by shires

RADIO

back, an unprecedented outpouring for a single programme. On Sunday. Anderson was undaunted: "I have had my life threatened by paramilitaries - now that's what I call radio criticism".

Yet those letters, and scores sent to me, say something important about radio as a medium Television mostly measures the success of a programme through viewing figures. Radio, on the other hand, is an intimate medium.

The audience figures for Anderson Country were not that much lower than for The Afternoon Shift. Indeed, my own postbag showed that the hardcore Radio 4 audience prefers lobbying to get the schedule changed rather than

voting with its tuning fingers. Anderson now has a daily radio show in Northern Ireland, where he has always

been immensely popular. The belief in Broadcasting House is that, like the England cricket team, he does not travel very well. I hope that is all there is to it, but I suspect that Anderson was too Irish for Middle England.

Sunday's Mediumwave, by coincidence, had another example of the way the British react to people and events depending on the extent of their foreignness. Why, asked ern media been kinder to Chechen terrorists than it would ever be to others? Mediumwave brought

to provide the answer. The critical focus of coverage here has been on the Russian army and Boris Yeltsin because we still see Russia in terms of the old Communist bogey. A second factor is that the Chechens welcomed the

Jon Snow of Channel 4 News

media, whereas Russian army personnel appear to have about as much media savvy as the Duchess of York.

PETER BARNARD

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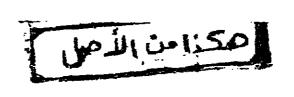
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■ MUSIC

Michael Tilson Thomas flourishes in San Francisco. but American orchestras struggle elsewhere



■ THEATRE 1

A new play, The Night of the Fox. goes nowhere slowly trying to define rape





THEATRE 2

. . while *Paper* Walls deals. more fruitfully. with abuse and murder inside the family home



OPERA

David Pountney makes a beautiful triumph of Aida in Munich, but the musical side is less impressive

CONCERT

Funky

feast

in a tin

FROM anarchic begin-

nings a decade ago. New York's Bang on a Can Festival has gained re-spectability in the con-

temporary music world.

First came a move from

its base in Lower Man-

hattan to the Lincoln Center, then a recording

contract with Sony for the

festival's resident ensem-

ble, the Bang on a Can All-Stars. Now the All-

Stars tour widely, and on

Tuesday they were warmly received at the

South Bank for the sec-

ond time in six months.

Bang on a Can was created by Michael Gor-

don. David Lang and

Julia Wolfe for compos-

ers. including them-

selves, too strange to fit

into New York's polar-

ised uptown-downtown

music scene. Hardly any

two pieces the All-Stars

play are alike, but almost

all combine elements of

"classical" and rock

music. Appropriately, the playing of this image-

conscious sextet — cello.

Bang on a Can

All-Stars

QEH

bass, saxophone, guitar,

chamber group with the

Much of the Bang on a

Can repertory inhabits

an aggressive minimalist world, but unlike the kind of amplified Muzak

which has crept into the

concert hall, these works

have something to say.

Lang's Cheating, Lying,

Stealing was dark and

disreputable; menacing

punch of a rock group.

piano, percussion mixes the precision of a

Five go in search of their former glory

raditionally, the American orchestral scene was dominated by the Big Five — Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York and Philadelphia surrounded by a great mass of what the East Coast establishment sniffily referred to as the regional orchestras, which were constantly jockeying for position in the second rank. By 1990, during the waning days of the directorships of Sir Georg Solti in Chicago and Zubin Mehta in New York, it

was widely believed that those two orchestras, at least, had been eclipsed by some of the young upstarts, notably the St Louis Symphony under Leonard Slatkin, the orchestras of Los Angeles and San Francisco and, if one roamed a bit northward, Montreal. Today, the Big Five is an

almost meaningless category. Without question, the major event of this musical season in America was the inauguration of Michael Tilson Thomas as music director of the San Francisco Symphony. MTT. as he is known now, has brought a real sense of musical excitement to his native state, with innovative programmes that include at least one American composition each evening (when he is conducting).
If Esa-Pekka Salonen has

not produced quite the same seismic results with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, he has nonetheless honed the orchestra's playing and established it as a leading exponent of the international avant-garde. In the autumn, the orchestra will be in residence at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, performing, among other works, The Rake's Progress (which, it will be remembered, was comosed in Beverly Hills), pro

duced by Peter Sellars. Salonen's boyish, blond good looks have gone down very well in a city that loves a pretty face, but his Nordic reserve and penchant for "difficult" post-serialist music have kept the audience from embracing him very warmly. The roster of guest artists in Los Angeles this season has a strongly British slant, with appearances by Roger NorAmerica's top

orchestras are in danger of losing their

lustre, says **Jamie James**

rington, Oliver Knussen, Joan Rodgers, Evelyn Glennie, and ondes martenot player Cynthia Millar.

Slatkin, who built the St Louis Symphony into an orchestra of international stature (or so we are continually told) will replace Mstislav Rostropovich as director of the National Symphony Orchestra. in Washington, DC. Rostropovich attempted to bring the capital's orchestra into the front rank, and did not quite succeed. Perhaps Slatkin, whose organisational prowess is acknowledged as masterly even by those who find his conducting rather bland, will fare better in the city of bureaucrats. The Orchestras Formerly

Known as the Big Five are not in particularly brilliant shape today, compared with their glory days under the likes of Bernstein, Ormandy and Szell, yet neither are any of them in dire straits - with the possible exception of Chicago. where Daniel Barenboim's lordly airs and inconsistent conducting appear to be driving many (though not all) of the players to distraction. Things have quietened

down a bit since he took over in 1991, when he was regularly exportated by critics and menibers of the orchestra, but there are still persistent reports of low morale in the orchestra. Orchestra Hall is now undergoing a \$100 million acoustical renovation, although a recent concert performance of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg conducted by Solti sounded warm and glorious to these ears. Nonetheless, the CSO's executive director, Henry Vogel, claims to have the highest subscription rate of any orchestra in America.

probably the country's leading symphonic ensemble today. Christoph von Dohnanyi has made a number of key personnel changes, including a new concertmaster, William Preucil, and new principals for the second violins, double basses and horns. In the spring, the orchestra will embark on a European tour, which begins in London. On March 21, Dohnanyi will conduct a programme of Schumann, Stra-vinsky and Ligeti at the

Festival Hall. When Kurt Masur took over as music director at the New York Philharmonic five years ago, he was hailed as a saviour, restoring the orches-tra to its former glory after the near-shambles left behind by Zubin Mehta, who was never a favourite with the players. While the situation in New York is stable, and the orchestra continues to play well. some cracks are beginning to show. Masur's courtly, rather dullish podium presence has failed to endear him to a city that loves stars as much as Hollywood does, and the current season has not been an inspired one. When they have attempted to introduce a bit of pizzazz, the results have been something of an embarrassment, such as a concert in October of film scores conducted by John Mauceri, which featured film clips from Ben-Hur and the Errol Flynn Robin Hood.

The Boston Symphony seems to be in a solid position at the moment, though this is not one of its great periods. Seiji Ozawa has held the top post there since 1973, making him by far the most senior of major American music directors. At the age of 60, he has reached, and perhans Dassed. the point at which he must decide whether to look around for a new orchestra (but where?) or to stay in Boston and reap the benefits of his quarter-century association with the ensemble.

Philadelphia was thrown into an uproar three years ago when Riccardo Muti abruptly resigned as music director. When Wolfgang Sawallisch was chosen as his replace-



Michael Tilson Thomas, here conducting at a Miami gala, has revitalised the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

ment, he was widely viewed as an interim, transitional figure. However, since he took over in 1993, he has made a much deeper impact than had been ected. The orchestra has rallied round him, though attendance has declined appreciably.

Sawallisch has made extensive personnel changes, hiring more principals than any music director since Leopold Stokowski, including a 27vear-old concertmaster from Israel, named Erez Ofer. He has kept the orchestra playing at a consistently high level, but he is now 72 years old, and nobody in Philadelphia seems to have a clue as to who will succeed him.

In the great mass of the second tier, the news is mostly gloomy. The death throes of the National Endowment for the Arts (America's equivalent to the Arts Council) is probably just a matter of time: a state of controlled panic has overtaken those institutions which do not have loyal, entrenched patrons and audiences. The Detroit Symphony, led by Neeme Jarvi, recently received an endowment grant of \$80 million from a consor-

tium of philanthropists, but

among those less fortunate. the chilling arts climate has produced some very strange programming and gimmicks.

In Houston, for example. where Christoph Eschenbach continues to inspire excellent playing in the core German repertory, the orchestra has resorted to backing up popperformers. Even in conservative Philadelphia there are plans to install large screens in the hall to project close-ups of the musicians.

The height of absurdity may have been reached by the Oregon Symphony, under music director James De

Priest, which has scheduled a marathon concert cum murder mystery called Mozart till Midnight. The programme plays upon the premise of reter Snatter's Amadeus by including music by "composers contemporary with Mozart who hated him and might have wanted to kill him" Computer terminals are installed in the fover of the hall which permit members of the audience to vote for culorits and also to communicate with the maestro, who apparently has nothing better to do in the interval than sit typing at a

computer keyboard.

nien celio lines soare through a barrage of percussive effects in the central section of a tightly structured work. Its score carries the marking "ominous marking funk", and funk was also an inspiration behind the impatiently energetic followed. Wolfe's Lick. Both Lick and Sieve Martland's throbbing Horses of Instruction - a Blake title not explained - seemed numblingly repetitive and might have made

more impact if they had been shorter.

The significance of the title in Louis Andriessen's Hout ("Wood") was also unclear, as the tightly-packed piece swirled with colour and energy like a Chinese dragon. No less virtuosity was required for an arrangement of the Brazilian jazz musician Hermeto Pascoal's Arapua ("Buniblebee 1, and the players dispatched it with joy and

Latin vigour. Different moods were explored in Martin Bresnick's The Bucket Rider, an austere, desolate piece inspired by Kaika's short story, and one of the composer's "Opere delle musica povera". Most striking of all was Gordon's Industry, a cello solo based on the simplest of materials: a mournful lament gradually amplified into distorted electronic wailing. Maya Beiser played it with grinding intensity. Unusually for a QEH concert, the encore was by Kurt Cobain.

JOHN ALLISON

THEATRE: In a suburban dream home, abuse and outrage fester in flimsy disguise. Plus, a moral hunt that cannot find its prey

Unsafe as houses

arlet Theatre's surreal playlet opens just out-side a structure that looks a bit like a Wendy house and a bit like a bathing hut and is clearly meant to denote flimsiness, vulnerability and claustrophobia-inducing confinement. For a few minutes three woman simply come and go, glassy grins fixed on their faces. But then a finger starts drawing on the tiny window below the toyshop caves. "Please help." it writes.

Is this an Ayekbournian cry for help from a parody suburban home? Is Scarlet Theatre demonstrating the awfulness of the ordinary? When Grainne Byrne, Christine Entwisle and Jan Pearson are trooping off to the DIY shop in uniform red jackets, or trying to repair the roof of their funny little house without sliding off, it might seem so. But Alice Power and Alice Purcell, the joint director-designers, have

Paper Walls Purcell Room

something stronger in mind. The exaggeratedly ordinary is camouflaging the outrageous. The hints proliferate: a yell of "I can't stand this any more", obscure references to a

man called Tom, sounds of scuffles, and, black-comic style, a procession to the dustbin of parcels variously emblazoned "goldfish". "bud-gie", "kitten", "rabbit". "dog". Things are clearly escalating inside the house. A weird electronic screaming is followed by a couple of gunshots. The house splits open to reveal a kitchen, a Mad-Hatter breakfast and only the three women to eat it. As the rest of the play proceeds to make clear, an abusive husband and father has been killed by his wife and daughters.



Dread: Jan Pearson. Grainne Byrne, Christine Entwisle

The play is apparently based on real events in the North; but you would hardly guess so from the company's style, which relies mainly on dumbshow and eschews specific accusation for a general evocation of stress and silent suffering. That is the evening's limitation, but also its strength. If it were surrounded by loads of verbiage, you might not feel the danger inherent in an event as tiny as the dropping of the master-ofthe house's boiled egg. What the company success-

fully catches is the dread it is safest to conceal, the pretence of normality that has to be sustained by means of smiles. desperate jokes, anything. Certainly, the evening provides the definitive answer to those who still suspect the London Mime Festival of being an excuse for fey figures in body-stockings to do clever tree imitations. Paper Walls is as deft as it should be: but it carries a punch too.

Superficial wounds

R andy has just been released from the slammer. He was sent down seven years ago, found guilty of raping a girl at her I4th birthday party. This new play by Peter Briffa opens with Randy's former Oxford University pals nervously awaiting his arrival. They gather on the patio of the respectably acred farm inherited by Shona, once a bit of a goer but long since settled with Nigel, student revolutionary turned gentle-

man farmer. The tension ought to be skyhigh. Lucy, who is both Randy's ex and the rape victim's sister, has suddenly turned up. shakily chain-smoking, propositioning left, right and centre, and possibly suicidal. Tom, whose gay lover has recently died, is chronically uptight and depressed about others having sex lives. Meanwhile Dick, now a businessman, rolling up with his younger girlfriend Helen, puts BENEDICT everybody's back up being brash and boring. He also happens to have brought a

The Night of the Fox Lilian Baylis, N1

gun, to hunt down the local

hen-snatching fux. of course. Briffa's drama should be provocative. Randy's visit essentially sparks an angry row about definitions of rape. Only it is hardly a debate. Randy delivers his radical "anti-feminist" arguments in large slabs. His logic, moreover, is crudely muddled. We are told this man has been clocking up first-class degrees. Standards must be slipping. Generally, the characters' conversations are banal or corny. Sometimes this is clearly intended to be satirical, but nobody seems sure when the writing is switching between farce and seriousness.

There is comic potential. Dick (tiny but thrusting Richard Lord) is briefly entertaining, pontificating pompously and telling the problem fox:

wardly static and unpaced. Some drag their feet, while Barry Cooper (here in his second Shammas production) hurriedly blunders through Randy's speeches. Vivien Gregory gives a commendably relaxed performance as the pregnant Shona, but everybody else's nerves are superficially portrayed.

"We are no longer prepared to

tolerate that sort of behav-

iour." But Sam Shanimas's

poorly directed cast are awk-

The play attempts to depict people with split attitudes. Randy keeps saying he is guilty and sorry, then pro-claiming his innocence and being unbelievably insensitive. Perhaps he is a psychopath but Cooper conveys no sense of mania or menace, so his schizophrenic statements are merely confusing. The implication that Lucy and Helen, while rejecting Randy's crass advances, might secretly want to fall into his arms is even harder to swallow.

KATE BASSETT

PREJUDICE, we are taught, is the one thing critics are not supposed to harbour. (Pride, it goes without saying, is unknown to the breed.) But it was difficult to cross the threshold of the Bavarian State Opera last week without the odd nervous twitch. David Pountney's anarchic sense of humour has been much in evidence recently, and not only in his rumbustious Fairy Queen for ENO. Travellers' tales from Bregenz last year spoke of drummajorettes in, of all operas. Fidelio. What

would he do with Aida? In the event the Pountney Aida was sober, deadly serious and very, very beautiful — surely one of the finest achievements of a director who seldom fails to surprise. It also made a useful point in the on-going argument as to whether people who stage opera should

Abstract but absorbing night by the Nile be called "directors" or "producers". This was definitely Pountney-as-producer. It was the overall concept that gripped the imagination rather than the actual direction of singers, which was rather conventional - the stock, but restrained operatic

opera production as such was invented. But the abstract visual world in which it all happened was something quite extraordinary. Robert Israel's decor suggested a scenery store: half a dozen huge flats, a pair of trucks with faint depictions of human, detectably female anatomy (a

gestures of tradition which, you could

argue, were what Verdi had in mind

when he wrote the music at a time before

navel, a neck -Pountney sees the opera as a study of two kinds of woman, the fleshly and the spiritual), all shifted slowly. continuously, noiselessly by an army of

supernumeraries. If that sounds unpromising, it is failing to take into account the work of the American lighting designer Mimi Jordan Sherin - she, really, should be designated the director. Washes of light in the most delicate colours (violet and indigo especially lovely) painted an ever-changquite astounding painterly beauty. The final image of a huge rock

the bowels of the the-

Aida Bavarian State Opera, Munich

OPERA

atre was breathtaking.
The near-abstract sculpture of the Nile scene was equally impressive, and if there is an episode that could be rethought and this is a staging one longs to see developed rather than just left to get on with it - it is the Triumph scene, to which just six dancers and nondescript choreog-

raphy (Nils Christe) failed to grant due weight. But this is already one of the most striking Aidas you could hope to see. But not, yet, one of the most striking

you could hope to hear. Roberto Abbado's slowly descending to crush the lovers who conducting was workaday, efficient, not were descending into measuring up to one of Verdi's most subtle and elusive scores. He, and the house, favour a big fat sound that is not exactly singer-friendly, and this neo-classical opera is largely about singing, as Pountney tacitly acknowledged. Influenza. I understand, had cut a swathe through the rehearsal period, and the first night was a nervy occasion, with only Waltraud Meier (Amneris) sounding fully

at ease. She sang an absolute storm. sounding happier in Verdi than she often does in Wagner.

After a tense, edgy first two acts, Cheryl Studer settled down into a sunnier, more relaxed account of Aida's music, but the silvery sense of musical phrase for which she is so much admired was in evidence throughout. Dennis O'Neill was the dependable Radames, and Robert Hale a fine Amonasco. He seems to sound better in this theatre than anywhere else. Only Kurt Rydl's relentlessly fortissimo, woodenly phrased Ramfis let the side down. Yet even if no one had sung a note all evening (I exaggerate, of course) this would still have been an Aida worth

RODNEY MILNES

Brought down early by the Romantic disease



When Rosa's Scene of Witchcraft (1646) was painted in Florence, ecclesiastic attitudes there - despite the Inquisition - were more relaxed than in Rome, where it could not have been openly displayed

mance artist, for his public image seemed to matter as much if not more than his paintings. A poetaster and would-be scholar, he paraded the streets of Rome in his finest clothes while a liveried servant followed carrying his sword. and his satire and comedies were noted by his contemporaries. He affected a Stoic pose, portraying himself as an austere scholar in the famous self-portrait in the National Gallery: yet Rosa always watched the art market and

pined for official recognition. Both contemporaries and posterity recognised his special gift for landscapes something born of his early training in open-air sketching - but Rosa emphasised the discordant features of nature: the jagged rocks and broken limbs of trees, filling his scenes with witches and banditi rather than nymphs and shepherds. Eventually the success of his landscapes irritated him, and when one hapless visitor asked to see them, Rosa

Bruce Boucher

SALVATOR ROSA His Life and Times By Jonathan Scott Yale University Press, £40

testily replied: "My talent is for figures, and I make sure they're seen by people of excellent taste to get rid of this absurd idea that I paint land-

Rosa's paintings were pic-turesque avant la lettre, and his fierce independence won a special esteem in the 18th century. Legends grew up about his spurious activities as a cutpurse and revolutionary. and if this was not quite the fame Rosa would have wanted, at least it was consonant with the role-playing so evi-dent in his self-portraits. Here the comparison with Rembrandt or Poussin is striking, for Rosa evinced little interes in plumbing spiritual depths so much as indulging in that quintessential Italian pastime of bella figura.

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gentlemen. Also, your Valentine will receive

Jonathan Scott unapologeti-cally calls his study of Rosa an old-fashioned "life and times", but its author could hardly be called a traditional art-historian. As a merchant banker and the current chairman of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, Scott clearly has the right background for dealing with a rum

cove like Rosa.

The book is especially interesting on Rosa's literary efforts and friendships with scholars. Scott has even translated Rosa's poetry into colloquial blank verse - no mean achievement. His work is sound and crammed with factual information. The book comes to life in the later chapters, surveying the re-markable late paintings such as the Dream of Aeneas and Saul and the Witch of Endor, or the etchings which crowned the artist's last years. Although Rosa saw etchings as a means of advertising his pic-tures, they suited his wispy figural style, and with them he created a graphic equivalent to Titian's late poesie.

He imbibed life as he did opium

Charles Lamb wrote of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "nor probably the world can see again." They had met at Christ's Hospital. No doubt Coleridge wore the blue coat with a difference, since his ebullient and elusive character had been largely formed. He was already a great talker and a voracious reader, with the gift of enthralling all those whom he encounthe delights and difficulties of his childhood, therefore, since they remain present throughout the rest of his life. It is best to encounter him in full flood.

His career at Cambridge, and his brief role as an enlisted soldier under the name of Silas Tomkyn Comberbache, are well enough known. He was discharged as insane", and in that sense he was already the perfect young man. He was so in love with his feelings that he was able effortlessly to parody them, perpetually tumbling between laughter and despair as if he were not at all sure of his own

Much more than Byron or Shelley, in fact, he is the poet of adolescence: despite what might be called his pantheistic Unitarianism, he saw nothing in the wide universe except the trembling of his own sensitivity. Only Wordsworth was more self-obsessed. And then, at 22, as Rosemary Ashton writes in this detailed biography, "Coleridge comes of age as a

He came of age as a talker, too, and it is not surprising that some of his best poetry takes the form of heightened conversation. But talk can also be a kind of oral fixation - what Coleridge himself once described as the "sucking child"—and the bibulousness of infantilism is present in his achievements as well as in his addictions. On one side are the Conversation Pieces, and on the other the intense and insistent verse of Kubla Khan or The Ancient Mariner. It is also the difference between the drink and the opium which he imbibed constantly.

He was so busy becoming addicted to literature and life, in fact, that he could never settle to anything. He veered between Jacobinism and Unitarianism. Pantisocratic enterprises and provincial lecturing. He took up poetry, criticism. philosophy and journalism only to abandon them. It is very surprising that he actually managed to marry, but the omens were not good when he named his first child Hartley, after the philosopher of sensationalism. His poor family were forced to follow the curavan of his own divagatory and desultory nature - until. that is, he decided that he ought to travel alone. He was in Germany, and then in Malta: he was always the searcher. although it is never clear what precisely he was searching for.

Peter Ackroyd on the restless genius of Kubla Khan

He was not meant to be a husband or a father. He was too vague and too undependable for anything but brief and ecstatic friendships. The fervid cycle of rapture and eventual disenchantment is seen to its strongest effect, of course, in his relationship with Wordsworth. Wordsworth was for a while infatuated by Coleridge's loquacity and knowledge.



Coleridge: the poet of adolescence

THE LIFE OF SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE By Rosemary Ashton

while Coleridge was mightily impressed by the other poet's understanding. It could have been a fine match if Coleridge had remained in London, where the rapid beat of the city matched his own tumultuous sensitivity, but to be alone with Words-

worth in the country was a mistake. He was so oppressed by the other poet's genius that he quite forgot about his own. He came to think of himself as a "metaphysician" rather than as a poet. He never possessed that solid, self-sustaining vision upon which Wordsworth could draw. Coleridge was too quick, and he knew too much. He was too clever to be a poet and too imaginative to be a metaphysician. So, like Muhammad's tomb, he was suspended between two worlds. And what, then, was the result? Thirty years of apprenticeship, as Rose-mary Ashton sees it, with the next 30 as "his years of wandering".

This is in many respects a detached and

restrained biography; it does not have the imaginative fervour, for example, of Richard Holmes's wonderful Coleridge: Early Visions. But it is described as a critical biography and, since Rosemary Ashton has written previously on Lewes and on Eliot, she is thoroughly conversant with those pulses of German idealism which animated Coleridge and which briefly stirred the English critical spirit But she is a very astute observer of Coleridge's life. She is also, on occasions, objective to the point of being censorious. Of course it is not hard to be unsympathetic about various aspects of his behaviour, not least in his treatment of those closest to him, and yet perhaps it is necessary to be half in love with him in order properly to understand him.

Certain people seem born to be the object of other people's gossip and pity. and it could be said that Coleridge was created by the needs of others as well as by his own. He was always there, for contemporaries of lesser genius, to criticise, to direct and attempt to control. With his inordinate desire to please and to entertain, he pretended to capitulate. In the end he always managed to escape. while making an almost pantomimic show of self-doubt and self-criticism.

et perhaps the expectations of others were quite wrong. His letters and notebooks are wonderful, and there is a sense in which his unfinished works form a greater achievement than that of any of his contemporaries. We must think of a writer who is perhaps at his best when he remains incomplete; his genius and imagination are so restless that they can only be brought into play momentarily. Richard Holmes put it well when he described one of Coleridge's most haunting images as "a protean form or a forcefield, lacking fixed structure or outline".

This is also the shape of Coleridge's genius. He had too fine and sensitive an imagination to dwell in any perception for too long. He adapted brilliantly to whomever he accompanied. He spoke without limits or distinctions. He followed the glow-worm of an idea until it burst into flames above his head. Just as his poems thwart any real attempt at narrative, so his life and career seem plangent, incantatory, insistent but without any formal resolution. Yet it is the mark of his greatness that the reader does not want Rosemary Ashton's book to end. He was a Socrates in the wrong civilisation, a Hamlet in the right one. a man whose universal genius made him prodigal of his own.

zone of zealous, quality hearts

n intellectual and psychological romp. Debra Daley's first novel follows the lives of Nerida and Alexis. It begins with their separate sunny New Zealand childhoods, though the glamorous pair are destined to meet and fall in love. Daley creates an acidic sense of doom which constantly erodes the more saccharine flavours of the plot. Following the paradigm "families — they screw you up", Nerida is numbed by guilt about her mother's death and her father's subsequent dissolution. Alexis, meanwhile, intellectually hot-housed by his adoring parents, grows up to be the perfect narcissist. Such are the obvious legacies of their different upbringings, but the detail of cause and effect, of event and reaction are now to be played out. As young adults, they land

in London, where Nerida drifts into a successful model-ling career. Drifting is her chief characteristic. As a result, her character teeters at the edge of tedium, but is saved by the suggestion that she is heading towards a more interesting existence. Alexis's life is altogether more turbu-lent. While a student, his childhood epilepsy returns to plague and bless him, bring-ing the gift of automatic writing. The brilliant papers on linguistics that result launch his academic career, the letter Z having an "intermittent influence" and triggering attacks. A quote from Balzac's Z. Marcas resonates: "Do you not discern in that letter Z an adverse influence? Does it not prefigure the wayward and fantastic progress of a storm-References to "the strange

letter Z" pile up like red

Tania Rice

THE STRANGE LETTER Z By Debra Daley Bloomsbury, E14.99

herrings in a thriller. At Cafe-Zar in Paris, Alexis tells Nerida of his obsession with Zeugen's work NarZiss, which inspires her to seduce him in the back of a cab. Playful though the use of the last chunk of the dictionary is, it smacks of over-indulgence.

erotically detailed. though proof, perhaps, of Kundera's theory that sex without its humorous side is banal. Meringue, however, may loose its appeal after Nerida suggests an alternative use for egg whites. She glides coolly along towards self-fulfilment, taking everything in her elegant stride. Alexis, faced with academic rivalry and Faustian temptation, is gripped by a sense of fraudulence: the grit in the narcissist's oyster. Hoping to alleviate his deteriorating condition, he proposes a sojourn in Mexico where the novel reaches its exotic climax.

When Alexis exhorts a colleague to "make something ordinary strange" he might be describing Daley's forte. But sometimes the narrative, otherwise lively with its sliding changes of perspective, is cum-bersome with ideas. Slough off this excess and there is, in the close observation, the manipulation of plot and character, a talented new writer at work. Typical is Daley's delightfully ironic description of buying provisions from a young woman exercising gloom behind the counter of a delicatessen in Hampstead". On a larger scale, she shows great skill in her portrayal of children as invisibly damaged: damage adulthood cannot cure, but only allow a

a card which reads: "Look for your message in The Times on Valentine's Day." Furthermore, the most original Valentine message published will win a weekend break at Riber Hall, Derbyshire (above), voted one of Britain's most nomantic hotels. There will also be a runner-up prize of a case of champagne.*

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The bloody opening of a long war

political landscape of All Souls Rising by Madison Smartt Bell (Picador, £15.99), think first of the French Revolution: the confusion of interests, the ebb and flow of public fortunes, the uncertainty, from one day to the next, of who was in control of whom.

Then imagine a little bit of France. Haiti in this case, which is at six weeks' remove from the mainland so that Royalist, Jacobin and Thermidorean jostle at the harbour for news of which faction has the ascendancy in Paris - or at least had it a few weeks pelore. Now populate it not with

two interest groups, but four:

white royalist landowners

igrands blanes); poor republi-

can Crevies (petits blancs):

mulattoes: and a black slave majority so horrifically treated that 20,000 Africans had to be imported every year just to keep the population constant. The novel fills in the gaps

left in historical accounts of the slave rebellion which brought Toussaint L'Ouverture - the "Black Napoleon" celebrated in one of Wordsworth's sonnets — to power. In the novel, the rebellion is instigated by the grands blanes to unify the Jacobin creoles against the mulattoes. whom the Revolution has sought to enfranchise, thus forcing them into an anti-Jacobin position and loyalty to the ancien regime.

Bell handles these complexities with confidence, operating manifold narrative voices and seeking to understand all sides. But his concentration on the effect of class and race struggles on the individual makes this novel more a human than a political drama.

OUR TWO principal conductors through the burning cane fields are Antoine Hébert, an enlightened French doctor who has come to the island in search of his sister, and a freed slave called Riau caught up in the revolution.

The doctor is the more successful construction. Persona grata on all sides, and anachronistically liberal, he operates like an everyman, responding on our behalf to the atrocities of war.

For this is a graphically gruesome novel. First we have the iniquities carried out by - ing the voice of a black slave to

ates her pregnant maid with a razor because she has dropped a teapot; the very first scene has Hébert coming upon the impromptu crucifixion of a pregnant mulatto. The slaves do not stint in their revenge. White babies impaled on pikes become their standard and men are hung on meat hooks to be skinned alive.

As L'Ouverture takes control, however, the atrocities slow down and an equilibrium is temporarily achieved. We leave Haiti in 1793, before the worst of the carnage, and there are suggestions that Bell intends a trilogy. It is to be hoped that this is true, for while some in America have questioned the propriety of a white American appropriat-



The Haitian uprising, 1791

sell novels, this is a fascinating aspect of the French Revolution that is all too frequently ignored in the romantic excitement generated by far far better" things.

GILES COREN

The novelist with quality to spare

The collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire plunged its literature into a state of mourning Josef Roth, Stefan Zweig and Hugo von Hof-mannsthal have left unforgettable elegies to the culture which produced them; but even their great achieve-ments pale beside the novel which Robert Musil began in 1918 and left unfinished at his death in 1942. The Man without Qualities is one of the longest novels in existence, and this new transla-tion, including much of the material unpublished at Musil's death and many of the passages from his note-books, shows not that Musil

died too young to finish it (he was at work on it for more than 20 years), but that it has no conceivable ending. Or rather, there is only one event that could bring this aimless commotion, set in the Vienna of 1913, to an end - and that event is unthinkable. All the characters sense that it is there. but none of them can conceive it, and only the reader knows that it is destined to shatter their world so completely that their actions, in retrospect, will make no proper sense.

Ostensibly the plot concerns a crazy scheme the Parallel or Collateral Campaign, conceived by high society patriots in order to revitalise the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In fact, however, there is no plot. Nothing happens besides meetings - some devoted to the patriotic cause, some to the reckless human relations which grow around it. In a notebook Musil wrote: "The story that makes up this novel amounts to this: that

the story that was supposed to be told in it is not told". In other words, the book. like the characters described in it, avoids the unthinkable event which is soon to destroy "Kakania", and to threaten the soul of central Europe - the soul which achieved its highest and most despairing self-con-

sciousness in this very novel. Ulrich, the "man without qualities", in fact has many qualities - but only fleetingly, and observed with such

THE MAN WITHOUT QUALITIES By Robert Musil Picador, £40

adhere to him. He is a philosopher, an observer of human weakness, and an unscrupulous seducer. His dramatic point lies not in his character but in his thoughts, expressed with a wonderful gift for metaphor by a writer who rises to the height of poetic evocation just when he is being most scientifically exact.



Musil: hinting at the unthinkable

his admiration for his cousin "Diotima", instigator-inchief of the patriotic campaign, by his lust for the nymphomaniae "Bonadea". and by his analytical obsession with Clarisse, the brilliantly portrayed schizoid wife of his best friend.

n Part III of the novel, however, all this reality is set aside, and Ulrich embarks on a "mystical union" with his sister Agathe, in which love, of a kind, hovers on the verge of carnal embodiment, and the tragicomedy of Kakania sinks into the background.

Parallel to the story of Ulrich is that of the sexmurderer Moosbrugger. Moosbrugger is one of the great creations of modern literature, whose mad thoughts are conveyed with an imagination and finesse worthy of Dostoyevsky. He hears a girl laughing and "turns around quickly, only to look into a

ably round as a hole in the ground into which a mouse has just slipped". His is the only glimpse we are offered of the world outside the salon and the study; it is a disor-dered world, in which Musil is clearly not at home, yet in which for that very reason he

takes a penetrating interest.

The Man without Qualities is a vehicle for its author's philosophy, for his poetic gift and for his powers of observation. It is a book into which every human feeling is invited, only to be at once pinned to the wall. A terrible coldness wafts around even its warmest evocations, and the obsession with women and their

sexuality is at times unbearable in its loveless objectivity. Nevertheless, whoever wishes to understand our century should read this novel, which so clearly shows the damage done to human relations by the habit of seeing them, in Musil's words, "not in a godless but in a god-free way". Such was Musil's way of seeing them: and it explains the otherwise inexcusable nonsense of a mystical union with the sister, by which he sought to

escape from the emotional void created on every side by his searing powers of analysis.

The Man without Quali-

ties was first translated by Eithne Wilkins and Ernst Kaiser, and published in 1954, in an edition which leaves out the entire Nachlass. Sophie Wilkins's version is equally lively, and on the whole more accurate. Both versions will offend the philosophical reader, by translating "das Prinzip des unzureichenden Grundes". which refers to Leibniz's Principle of Sufficient Reason, as "the Principle of Insufficient Cause". This shows ignorance: it also ruins one of Musil's most sustained and delightful ironies. Such pedantries apart, I would recommend Sophie Wilkins's translation as a conscientious attempt to give to the English reader a novel which is compared by the publisher, with only slight exaggeration, to The Remembrance of Things Past

Daylight and magic









Elizabeth II as both a very human Oueen and an icon of Monarch a set of commemorative Coronation stamps, issued on June 3, 1953

Andrew Roberts examines a well-balanced biography of the Queen and finds its author as judicious as she is honest and unflinching

ELIZABETH

Heinemann, £20

ednesday September 9, 2015 will be an important day in the life of Queen Elizabeth II. for she will then have reigned longer than any other British monarch. If she inherits her mother's family's longevity, it is not mpossible tor a nonagenarian Elizabeth to beat Queen Victoria's 63 years, seven months and two days record. We must hope that she does, and Sarah Bradford's book goes a long way

towards explaining why.

In all the media hysteria which has greeted Elizabeth — or at least this newspaper's serialisation of it, as most of its critics cannot have read the book itself - no one has asked about its central message. It is simply that our present Queen is the most honest, dutiful, decent, professional and genuinely Christian monarch ever to sit on the British Throne.

The failings of some of Elizabeth II's family are all the starker in contrast with the near-perfection she has brought to the job. Just as the best human brains beat

the best computers at chess, we have a very human Queen who A Biography of Her does the job better Majesty the Queen than could any fully-By Sarah Bradford programmed robot.

The result is that throughout all the

strains of post-1952 Britain, there has been a national focus for our loyalty and civic unity, a powerful psychological force against social and political fissure which is denied to republican countries.

Sarah Bradford, the respected biographer of Disraeli, George VI and Sacheverell Sitwell, writes elegantly and well. The sniffy description of her by the enthusiastically non-academic Editor of The Spectator as "nonacademic" would presumably also exclude his favourite historians Gibbon, George Buckle and Paul Johnson. Witty and generous, the author has nevertheless been deluged with connumely for this honest and restrained book, and all because of two pages. Sir Robert Rhodes James even denounced it on the basis of precisely two paragraphs, and under a headline ('The Mid-life Crisis of a Writer') so personally insulting and unfair I am sure he would not condone it.

The reason is not Bradford's research; she has covered all the sources open to her and interviewed among others the Earls of Carnavon and Harewood. Lords Jenkins and Charteris. Ladies Longford and Mountbatten and the late Group Captain Peter Townsend. It is rather because she has applied to her biography of the head of state the same criteria that all serious modern biographers have for decades now applied to eir subjects. She has said that private lives do matter and that if the subject should be "long to reign over us."

knows her husband may have been unfaithful it should be included, however tangentially. Any life of the Queen which ignored it entirely would have been rightly excoriated by the reviewers, and Bradford is nothing if not professional.

If anything, the author perhaps errs too much on the side of discretion. She does not mention by name the women with whom Prince Philip has conducted "flirtations and relationships" over the last half century. Compared to what she must have heard while writing this book, Sarah Bradford must have exercised enormous selfcensorship, and has brilliantly drawn the teeth of the far more dangerous chequebook journalist extravaganza promised by Kitty Kelley.

The Queen's more tolerant and wholly upper-class marital mores have allowed her to rise above her husband's wanderings and, as Bradford is at enormous pains to point out, a blissfully successful marriage has re-

sulted. The fact that every so often his testosterone may get the better of him is not something Bradford conscientiously

particularly dwells on but neither is it something that she could Far from emerging with cuckold's horns,

the Queen portrayed in this book is victorious, happy and glorious. Sarah Bradford's brave and honest decision not to keep her readers ignorant about something that has been common London society gossip for half a century must be applauded.

The abuse she has received for making money out of the book's serialisation says more about the culture of envy in the British tabloid press than it does about her. Stockbrokers, businessmen and even tabloid editors are not criticised for wishing to maximise profit on their products, yet the moment an author looks to gain from a book which might have taken, as in this case, four years to research and write, they are treated with disdain.

Elizabeth is a fine biography. but anyone reading it for sleaze will be hugely disappointed. The author is clearly a fervent monarchist, who along with John Osborne, Maicolm Muggeridge, John Grigg and others. has correctly perceived that the true threat to the monarchy comes not from open republicanism but from post-Victorian, inhumanly high expectations, fuelled by moronic elements in the media.

The best that can be hoped for, apart from a quick divorce and the efficient sidelining of Princess Diana, is that the heroine of this excellent biography

READING anthologies is a bit like getting drunk on a series of miniatures. Still, here are some strong ones.

Women's Poetry of the 1930s (Routledge, £35 or £8.99 paperback) aims to destroy the myth that all the poets of the "Auden Generation" were men. Twenty women poets of the inter-war years are represenied separately, though two of the most interesting (Laura Riding and Kathleen Raine) refused to allow their work to be included in a gender-based compilation. Stevie Smith. Anne Ridler and Ruth Pitter seem the most distinctive voices here - but then each of these writers was primarily a poet, where some of the rest wrote verse only as a side-line. sound critical case that none of

Happily ransacking the poetic mini-bar

POETRY

her inclusions deserves to be ignored, and her notes of introduction are exemplary. I doubt if this volume by itself will cause a re-drawing of the map of fame, but students and scholars alike should find it a

useful resource. Poems on the Underground (Cassell, £6.95 paper back) collects 162 poems that have been soothing or annoying commuters for the past ten years. A wide range of writers is represented - from Shakespeare to Dorothy Parker, the latter by her quatrain The Flaw in Paganism: "Drink

and dance and laugh and lie,/ Love, the reeling midnight through,/ For tomorrow we shall die!/ (But. alas, we never

The editors report that when this poem first appeared on the Tube, they received a phone call from a vicar asking permission to reprint it in the hurch Times, which would doubtless have amused the author. These editors (Gerard Benson, Judith Chernaik. Cicely Herbert) merit praise in that high and low nearly all their choices are inspired. Compulsive readers with an aversion to adverts for temps are forever in their debt.

I think it was Camille Paglia

who said that poetry is the connecting link between body and mind: in which case she might enjoy Christopher Hurford's anthology, Erotic Verse (Robinson, £5.99 paperback). Splendidly rude, this runs from Chaucer to Thom Gunn, and finds room for Eskimo Nell as well as Christina Rossetti. Nice to see a slice of the pseudo-Byronic Don Leon included, even if the editor ascribes it to Anon when G. Wilson Knight proved 40 years ago that it is by George Colman the Younger. An unusual item is W. H. Auden's uncollected The Platonic Blow, which he seems to have written as a

porno exercise parodying the clotted metres employed in the Arthurian poems of his "saintly" friend Charles Williams (curious how these metres suit carnal matters better than they match their original tran-

scendental purpose). My one criticism would be that there are more vigorously colloquial versions of Catullus by C. H. Sisson than the ones favoured here. The real test of a book like this, though, is the strength of its obscenities by Anon -- and here Hurford comes up trumps, with all the stuff you would expect (such as a complete text of The Good Ship Venus) as well as a few limericks new at least to me:

"A remarkable tribe are the Sweenies./ Renowned for the length of their penes./ The hair on their balls/ Sweeps the floors of their halls./ But they don't care for women, the

meanies. No Sweenies or meanies but lots of Seamus Heaney in Patrick Crotty's Modern Irish Poetry (Blackstaff Press,

the results are too rich even for putting on the roses, but of the variety and abundance of contemporary Irish verse this excellent anthology leaves no doubt. Women's poetry is strongly represented by. among others. Eavan Boland and Medbh McGuckian, as well as by the liveliest of the Irish-language poets. Nuala

Ni Dhomhnaill.

£14.99 paperback). Some of

ROBERT NYE

SATURDAY BOOKS

Edwina Currie's latest political blockbuster: Joanna Trollope salutes her publisher and Andrew Knight on the rise and rise of Conrad Black

WHITBREAD

BOOK OF THE YEAR

1995 25th applicativary year

A black box of dystopic trifles

ournalism has a nasty habit of disappearing into the ether or, slightly better, to the bottom of the guinea pig cage. Only a minuscule percentage finds a good enough excuse to be recycled in anthological form. This collection's is that it is by J. G. Ballard, who has roped in a lot of old pieces under a banner title that works overtime to justify their resuscita-

17 M. 18

A User's Guide to the Millennium includes Ballard's pensées on Mae West, Winnie the Pooh and Coca-Cola which, lar from getting you through to the next millennium, do no more than fill an idle minute the way ordinary journalism does. But the bulk of the stuff, much of it book reviews, is on Ballard's more familiar territory, covering subjects on which he will have held firm opinions long before the literary editor set him his 135K: Dieces about the future (its past, present and future), space (outer and inner), sci-



Seminal realism in science fiction cinema: Destination Moon (1950) from Science Fiction: The Aurum Film Encyclopedia, edited by Phil Hardy (Aurum Press, £25)

ence, fiction, science fiction, Shanghai, Shepper-ton. And so on into an infinite variety of loosely

linked obsessions. In 30 years of being invited to write about the moon landings and whither-the-sci-fi novel?" (about which, surely, fewer people care than he imagi-nes) he couldn't possibly get away with not repeating ideas

and phrases. The infamous photo of the napalmed Vietnamese girl Jasper Rees

A USER'S GUIDE TO THE MILLENNIUM **Essays and Reviews** By J. G. Ballard HarperCollins, £18

obsesses him. He is fond of suggesting that Neil Armstrong is the century's most significant, and yet most forgotten icon. And does he ever go on about the supremacy of

William Burroughs's The Naked Lunch. At least his repetitions have a mighty breadth. If any modern thinker can claim to have a foot in both of Cyril Connolly's then it cultures. Ballard. You sense that he

proudly, even ruthlessly patrols the patch. There's a cruel swipe at Jonathan Miller, one of his fellow twoculture-vultures who, he says, brilliantly mimics originality. Ballard's own originality

is partly a case of going to odd sources for inspiration. The ten favourite books he lists in 1992 include the LA Yellow Pages and also The Black Box. a collection of cockpit voicerecorder transcripts. These are examples of what

he calls invisible literatures: faxes. e-mail. press releases. "obscure genre fictions wrapped in metallised jackets that we scarcely notice on our way to the duty-free shop". He even reviews a piece of invisible literature: How To Achieve Sexual Ecstasy. in which, making one of his trademark predictions about the dystopia in which our descendants will live, he imagines a near future in which "sex does not exist. only eroticism.

ometimes his apercusfor-hire are provoking solely for their wrong headedness. "London needs to become as decadent as Weimar Berlin", he tells the readers of Time Out. Apparently it would improve with more brothels and porn parlours. How about its own local government? These reviews and essays are themselves a form of invisible literature. and despite repetitions, well worth hoiking into our sight-line. Ballard envisages a future in which "anthologies of 20th-century inter-office memos may be as treasured as the correspondence of Virginia Woolf and T. S. Eliot". Anthologies ain't going to be what

George stubs out his cigarette and makes a

kind of snorting noise in his throat and settles back into his chair to watch Bunty making his cup of tea (well, this is 1959). He clears his throat and spits into his handkerchief just as Bunty puts the cup and saucer in front of him with a glazed expression on her face. This is the expression she wears when she picks up George's socks, handkerchiefs and underpants (wearing rubber gloves) and drops them into a bucket of Dettol to soak before they are allowed to join the rest of our barely-sullied washing in the English Electric.

from Behind the Scenes at the Museum by Kate Atkinson Published by Black Swan @ £6.99

Congratulations to Kate Atkinson, winner of the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year

Celebrating the best contemporary English literature

WE HAVE BAREANS OF THE WEEK

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UVALENTINE'S Day at the Venice Carnival forms part of

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Bonvecchiati. Price: £331 per

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to your partner for the night

flights, breakfast, flowers

Granada to raise

Forte prices

By David Churchill

THE Granada Group is expected to lead a rush by British hoteliers to raise hotel prices after its successful £3.8 billion takeover of Forte on Tuesday. Granada is understood to be planning to push up rates by up to 10 per cent at the Forte hotels it acquired, including the Travelodge and Posthouse chains, to take ad-

industry sources suggest that Granada may increase the standard rate of £34.50 at the 120 Travelodges it has acquired by between £3 and £4 a night, leapfrogging the £35.50 a night that Whitbread charges in its Travel Inn chain

vantage of a strong demand

Whitbread had hoped to buy Forte's Travelodges for £1 billion if the Forte family had been able to successfully defend against the bid for their group. Whitbread may now take the opportunity to bolster its profit margins by matching any new Travelodge price increases.

Granada's plans to raise prices are being followed by other hotel chains around Britain, according to Borge Eligaard. American Express vice-president for its hotel relations group. He said: "The top hotels in London have already made it clear that rates will go up by between 5 and 10 per cent this year, and in some cases a little more, as a result of the very high demand."

Mark Phillips, a senior consultant for Horwath, a hotel consultancy, described London hotel prices as "racing ahead" this year. But he said that the picture was not as strong in the regions.

"We expect hotels in the major regional cities to try to follow London and put up rates this year, probably by about 5 per cent or so," he said. "But outside the urban areas it is still pretty tough for hoteliers. About three-quarters of regional towns or on the edge of big cities and they will have little scope to push up prices this year.

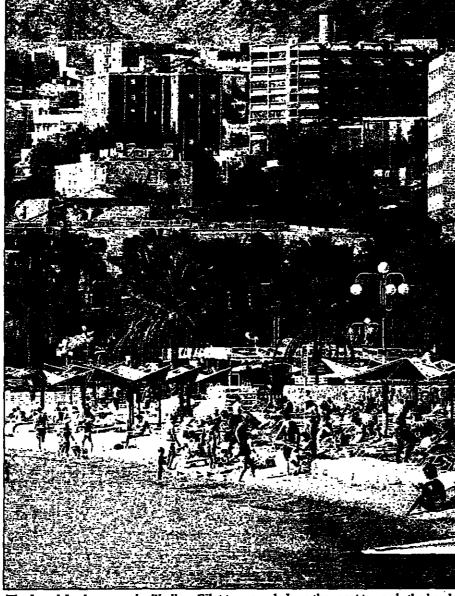
Stakis, the Scottish-based hotel group, has said it is likely to seek increases of up to 5 per cent this year as a result of higher demand for its regional city hotels.

But Amex's Mr Ellgaard says he has already detected signs this month that some companies are resisting paying the higher prices being charged by London hotels. There is a little price resistance clearly being detected by our staff," he reported.

Amex has a special hotelbooking centre for its corporate clients which is aimed at securing lowest prices. Next month it plans to publish a UK guide to more than 600 business hotels at which. Mr Ellgaard claims, Amex can negotiate rates some 40 per cent below published prices.

Hotel industry experts. however, believe that Granada's plans to sell Forte's Meridien business hotels and luxury Exclusive hotels, such as the Hyde Park Hotel in London and George V in Paris, may distort the market. New owners of these hotels are likely to want to raise prices even further to recover their costs of acquisition. But Horwath's Mr Phillips

said: "We could be at the top of the business cycle for hotel demand this year." This could make it more difficult for Granada to secure the best prices for the Forte Luxury hotels and its stake in the



The Israel-Jordan accord will allow Eilat to expand along the coast towards the border

Eilat-Aqaba resort agreed

FROM RACHAEL JOLLEY IN ISRAEL

THE leaders of Israel and Jordan have signed an historic treaty to create a holiday resort on the Gulf of Aqaba which would link the Israeli town of Eilat with the Jordanian town of Aqaba.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan last week agreed a blueprint for the region's tourism, and signed the Eilat-Aqaba accord in Aqaba before sailing to Eilat, five kilometres away, to celebrate their plans. The agreement comes after the peace treaty signed between

Within a few weeks, it is hoped, the two cities will be linked by regular bus and boat services and an airport border crossing. He says: "We are now serving both cities is to be

built within five years. Up to now the expansion of the Israeli resort has not been possible because of the tension between the two countries, which has prevented hotels being built close to the border. Now, hotels, restaurants and tourist facilities are to be built along the Eilat coastline and a similar growth is expected in Aqaba. Dov Sharf, the newly ap-

pointed director of regional co-operation and a member of the Eilat-Aqaba development committee, says the agreement will make it much easier for tourists to book holidays to both Jordan and Israel.

eased, so speeding up the

entering a new era. We are going to co-operate and it will be of benefit to all." The new airport will be about 12 kilometres from Eilat, probably on Jordanian territory. At the moment, all flights from the UK arrive at Ovda, a former military airbase, and the new location will be 30 minutes nearer the resorts.

Mr Sharf predicted that Egypt would also sign a similar agreement, so joining in with Israel and Jordan's tourism venture, and allowing visitors easy access between the three countries, all within a 30-minute drive of each other along the coast.

Thomson turns to

Ireland THOMSON is to sell package holidays in Ireland — its first foray into the potentially lu-crative market. Harvey Elliott writes. The company hopes to persuade the Irish to buy at least 40,000 packages to the traditional resorts of the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands and Florida for this summer.

Steve Allen, commercial director, says at least 350,000 summer packages are now sold in Ireland and that this is likely to increase to 400,000, Budget and Falcon account for 80 per cent of sales, and Thomson believes it can compete on price and quality.

Thomson will watch the development of the new operation carefully: if successful, it could eventually expand to other European countries. "The Ireland operation has the distinct advantage that every-one speaks English," Mr Allen says. "Although the Irish do have certain preferences and do some things differently to our British customers, basically they are looking for the same sort of holiday.

Striking gold

victory when it was named as both the UK and Europe's leading hotel group in the Travel Weekly Golden Globes Awards on Tuesday. The presentation at the Grosvenor House Hotel, in London, came only hours after Forte lost its takeover battle with Granada. Jackie Kernaghan, Forte sales and marketing director, described the award as the "end of an era." Thomson Holidays scooped the awards, winning five Golden Globes including the premier award for the Best Travel Company of the Year.

WEEKEND TRAVEL

Travel the world on Saturday See the face of Queen Nefertari Swap homes and see the world Shakespeare in Barbados

of February 14 in a two-person tent against a backdam. Paris and New York for those who cannot get away on the day itself. Details: 01203 225888. ground of Everest is offered as part of a 17-day adventure holiday from Explore World-☐ FOUR nights, including wide. Departing from Lon-February 14, for the price of don on February 9, the three at the seductive 5-star Hotel Eden in Rome is being holiday includes sightseeing. trekking and some hotel ac-commodation. Price: £1,315

FOR those who would like to plan something a little more original than a rose and a

card for their loved ones on

Valentine's Day, The Times offers a selection of holidays

and hotel stays specially de-

☐ A DAY trip to Venice on

February 14, including a guided tour of the city by

water taxi, is available from Lunn Poly for £238 per

couple. The company is also

offering a two-night break in

York on February 14 and 15

for £114 per couple and has

weekend breaks available

from February 16 in Amster-

offered by Citalia. Prices,

CREATE a new man is the theme of Inter-Continental

Hotels programme being

launched on St Valentine's

Day and lasting throughout

1996. The programme, for men only, includes a Rolls-

Royce transfer to Harvey

Nichols store in Knights-

meeting with a personal im-

its four hotels in London,

along with dinner for two

and a bouquet of red roses for

the man. Prices start at £810

per couple at the Forum

Hotel and go up to £2,500 at

the Inter-Continental on

Hyde Park Corner. Details:

☐ THE Stoke-on-Trent Moat

House is celebrating St Val-

entine's on Friday. February

l6 with a two-night package.

dinner-dance, red roses and

full English breakfast for

£92.95 per person. Details: 01782 609988.

THE Hotel de Crillon in

0181-847 2277.

signed for romantics:

Paris has a special "romane ing the Crillon" package priced at Fr3.900 (£513) per couple per night which in-cludes a champagne break-fast, flowers in a de luxe room and a gift of a Baccarat crystal heart. Details: 00 33 bridge for a facial, manicure and haircut before having a 144711501. age and presentation consul-tant. Accommodation is in

☐ CHAMPAGNE and a dozone of the chain's top suites at en red roses are on offer from the Ritz Hotel, London, on Valentine's night, along with a continental breakfast the next morning. One night's accommodation is £225 plus VAT for two while a champagne dinner dance in the hotel's Louis XVI restaurant costs another £125 per person. Details: 0171-493 8181.

> ☐ STAY at the Runnymede Hotel on the banks of the River Thames close to Windsor and enjoy not only a special dinner at £22.50 per person but also an extensive range of health and beauty treatments at the hotel's spa, including a back, neck and

shoulder massage and mini facial for £36. Details: 01784

per person. Details: 01252 319448.

SKIING through the gen-

tle wooded hills of central France on Valentine's Day

with a candlelit gastronomic

dinner to follow is the sugges-

tion of Headwater Holidays.

Departing on February 10, the week's holiday in Pailherols, costs £492 per person including full board and Nordic ski pack. Details:

BARGAIN holidays to in-

clude Valentine's Day on the

island of Cyprus, birthplace

of Aphrodite, the "goddess of

love", are available from Cyplon Holidays, Prices for a

week, including flights, at the

5-star Coral Beach Hotel start at £290 per person, less

than half the peak season price. A week at the 5-star Paphos Amathus Beach Ho-tel costs £390. Details: 0181-

01606 48699.

340 7612.

PROPOSE to your loved one on February 14 at Bullochs restaurant at the Athenaeum hotel in London and, if accepted, your wedding night can be spent free in the hotel. The special dinner costs £40 per person. including a glass of pink champagne. Details: 0171-499 3464.

☐ CANNIZARO House. a Georgian mansion set on Wimbledon Common, has a special five-course meal on Valentine's night for £39.75 with overnight accommodation at £59 per person includ-ing breakfast. Details: 0181-879 1464.

☐ A ROMANTIC dinner dance is being held at the Waldorf Hotel in London on February 14, at £65 per person along with a prize draw to win a weekend for two in Paris, travelling by Eurostar. Details: 0171-836

World Offers programme is now on sale. Return fares include Cologne for £79, Frankfurt £104, Madrid £96, Paris £69 and Venice £118. Details: 0181-897 4000.

BRITISH AIRWAYS latest

☐ AIR UK's riposte is a new range of saver fares, including Copenhagen £149, Ham-burg £108, Milan £129, Munich £120. Nice £96. Flor-Details: 0345 666777.

☐ TWO passengers bound for South-East Asia can fly in business-class comfort for half price. Bridge The World Travel has a companion fare of £1,137 return per person for round-trip business flights with Malaysia Airlines be-

Lumpur or Singapore. Both Asian cities make ideal jumping off points for other destinations in that region. Details: 0171-485 5868.

tween London and Kuala

E EASYJET brings its nofrills fares to the Luton-Aberdeen route from tomorrow. The airline will sell all seats at £29 one way during the initial one-week

MERICAN AIRLINES is offering a 40,000-mile bonus for frequent-flyer members booking first or business class, round-trip transatlantic flights. Details: 0345 567567.

☐ BUSINESS class passen-

gers flying ANA to Japan qualify for benefits worth several hundred pounds. These include a night's free five-star accommodation in Tokyo and chauffeur-driven cars to and from Heathrow. Details: 0171-355 1155.

☐ BA Executive Club members will get triple air miles when booking full-fare Deutsche BA (the German British Gatwick and Bremen. Details: 0990 322322.

☐ MANCUNIANS can save about 30 per cent when flying business class to the Gulf. The Travel Bug, a local agent, is charging £1,229 return on Emirates from Manchester to Dubai.

Cliveden wins world rating

By TONY DAWE

CLIVEDEN. the historic house on the banks of the Thames in Berkshire, has been rated the third best hotel in the world by readers of the American travel magazine, Condé Nast Traveler.

It is one of 24 British properties - more than any other European country - that made the "gold list" of the world's 500 best hotels and cruise lines. Readers praised Cliveden's

"fine panelling that goes on forever", the "excellent French food", the "splendid period pieces" in the rooms. They described the grounds and topiary as "second to none".

The hotel scored 96.4 per cent in the survey of 33,000 readers and finished behind the Four Seasons Resort, Bali. and the Four Seasons Hotel, Milan. London's Four Seasons Hotel achieved the second-best rating in Britain and was praised for its luxurious decor and excellent cuisine.

Claridge's, the Savoy and Ritz hotels in London, and the Royal Crescent in Bath and Chewton Glen. Hampshire. scored well, as did Llangoed Hall in Wales, described as "a lovely country house in the spectacular Wye Valley".

Take a trek for children

By Martin Symington

TWO NEW opportunities cow children's hospital burns unit. A further £1,000 may have arisen for intrepid travelalso be raised by sponsorship to cover the full cost of the lers this summer, both sponsored for the benefit of journey. One of the first to sign children's charities. The Friends of Russian up has been Carol Thatcher. Children (FORC) is orga-Phone 0171-720 9219 for details

nising a 450-mile cycle ride from Nogorod, near St Petersburg, to Moscow. It is appealing for 100 volunteers for the ten-day ride between June 20 and 30. Accommodation is a mixture of camping and budget hotels. Each participant will be required to raise a minimum of £1,000 for a project to nomadic Masai tribesmen improve conditions at a Mos-

Another 100 are being sought by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). It has linked up with the Africa specialist tour operator Gane and Marshall to organise a six-day hike across the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania, led by

with camping en route.

The trip, from July 29 to August 11, is completed with a safari drive through the re-gion's national parks, staying in lodges. It takes in the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and the bird-watchers' Eden, Lake Manyara.

The cost per person is £1.995, of which £500 will go directly to the NSPCC. A further 550 for each walker will be donated to a Tanzanian children's charity. Each par-ticipant is also asked to raise an additional minimum of £250 through sponsorship. Contact Gane and Marshall on 0181-441 9592.



Rhinos in Tanzania, one of the sights awaiting 100 volunteers hiking for the NSPCC

Lisbon & Porto

with 2 nights free accommodation in 3 star hotel."

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All flights are on scheduled services. Bookings must be made by 19th February 1996, departures up to 28th March 1996 "Prior is per person. 2 adults must travel together, twin occupancy 3 star hotel BIB, two right stay or a Setunday right. Subject to availability Caravela Tours Ltd. ATOL 1598. Amport Taxes are not included.

Room service? Send up a bicycle, please

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AMERICAN hotels are offer- They add as much as \$30 to ing a new room service facility alongside the customary shoeshine, laundry and midnight sandwich platters. Guests can now ring down for an exercise

bicycle. The innovation reflects not only the keep-fit fad, but also a growing reluctance among some people to use hotel gymnasiums. Women are said to fear late-night trips to the exercise suite, which may often be in the basement. For portly businessmen there is the embarrassment factor of sweatily conducting one's physical jerks in the company of a more svelte male.

A number of hotels have

therefore introduced room-

service treadmills, step-up ma-

chines and exercise bikes.

the bill, but Elisa Ross, of the Ritz-Carlton in Aspen, Colorado, said that guests are happy to pay. The minimalist Royalton Hotel in New York, popular with rock stars, has gone further, introducing rooms which have small exercise units en suite. Celebrities welcome the chance to do their fitness routines away from prying eyes, said the hotel's manager, Keith Space.

Brian Davidson, a director at Lifecycles, which makes the fold-up exercise machines. said that demand had blossomed in the last year. The Hilton and Marriott chains are testing the devices, and they have been introduced at some lower budget chains such as Davs inn.

Forte Hotels scored an ironic

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WERTISE CALL

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Charity seeks eco-tourists | Norwich tops fare league | EXECUTIVES | WORKING IN BY RAYMOND ATHERTON | Air UK SAYS that passenger

By TONY DAWE

A CHANCE to study the snow leopard's hopes of survival in the Himalayas and to record the habits of black lemurs in the dwindling forests of Madagascar are among the new eco-tourism projects unveiled

by Earthwatch today.

The charity, which funds scientific research by inviting paying volunteers to join in, has introduced 32 new projects among the 138 included in its programme for this year, and hopes to attract thousands of helpers at prices ranging from

In addition to studying wildlife, volunteers can work with local communities in places such as Ecuador, where help is needed to conserve a 15,000acre tropical forest, and Yunnan province, China, where a team will try to capture the essence of the remote region's Buddhist ritual and music.

Earthwatch is also running cultural and heritage projects. Among those announced to-day is a scheme to study, draw and photograph traditional houses in Kula, Turkey, to help to ensure the designs survive.
There is little money

around for this type of project but by matching the needs of scientists with the interest of the public we have found a way of funding them," says Andrew Mitchell, Earth-watch's deputy director.

"Many people long to use their two-week holiday in a useful way and scientists involved in crucial field research need committed, interested assistants. Our philosophy is to use the power of travel to help the environment."



Wildlife alert an Earthwatch project with endangered lemurs on the island of Madagascar

Volunteers eager to study the snow leopard will head for the upper indus valley in northern India and camp in tents as they gather information on food sources, land use and tourism, all of which affect the animals' chance of survival. "They are the world's most elusive and endangered animal and their declining habitat is forcing them to

retreat further into the mountains," Mr Mitchell says. The project will cost £40,000 and each volunteer's share will be £995, which excludes the cost of travelling to and from India.

In Madagascar, volunteers will pay £750 each to stay at a hotel on Lemur Island as they study the creatures, which have been losing their natural habitat as forests are cleared for pastures and farmland. The team will be led by Josephine Andrews, of University College. London.

"The tragedy is that only 6

per cent of the forest in which

the lemurs evolved now re-mains," Mr Mitchell says.

Conservationists are trying to

secure and protect what re-

mains but at the same time

ensure that tourists, the life-

blood of the local economy.

have the wonderful experience

of walking through these for-

ests, watching the lemurs and

recording how they react to

"Earthwatch volunteers will

can still admire the animals.

veiled its largest programme of discovery weekends in Britain. Volunteers can try the Earthwatch experience for short periods, joining in behind the scenes at Kew Gardens or helping to excavate mammoth bones at Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire.

"Our volunteers told us they wanted to dip their toes in the water of Earthwatch before committing themselves to a full two-week project," Mr Mitchell says. "Many of our discovery weekend volunteers have gone on to take part in full projects and have returned

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EXECUTIVES working in London. Birmingham or Manchester may grumble about the cost of short busistudying the fruits and plants they eat and how these might ness flights to Amsterdam, Paris or Brussels, but they get off lightly in comparison with their counterparts who are

be affected by the plans of farmers and tour operators. "Many people are worried about possessing the right skills for our projects but all based in Norwich. they need is an observant pair of eyes and the ability to keep their wits about them." This year's Earthwatch pro-

gramme continues to offer cultural projects closer to home, including the chance to join Fabio Carrera, the founder and director of the Venice Project Centre, in documenting the city's crum-bling street altars, bells and public art as a first step to restoration.

In the past 25 years, the charity has supported more than 1,850 projects in 104 countries and contributed almost 4.5 million hours of field research.
Earthwatch has also un-

again and again."

● For further information, call 01865 311600 or write to Earthwatch at Belsyre Court, 57 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2

By RAYMOND ATHERTON

The East Anglian capital boasts a single air link, a fourtimes-a day service to Amster-dam, which is operated by Air UK. At 300 miles, the Nor-wich-Amsterdam round-trip is both the shortest and costliest route between the United Kingdom and the Continent

Air UK operates one-class

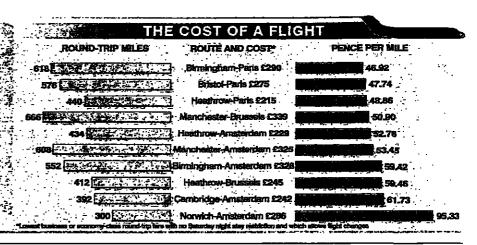
flights on this hop across the North Sea, charging £286 for the cheapest business fare, which equates to a whopping 95_33p a mile. By comparison, a traveller from London bound for Amsterdam pays British Airways

business-class rate of £229, or 52.76p a mile, someone from Birmingham pays £328 (59.42p a mile), while the Mancunian gets away with £325 (53.45p a mile). In defence of its high fares.

must expect to pay for the convenience of flying from their local airport.

The comparison is unfair. The Norwich catchment area is small, only 600,000 people. so we do not benefit from the volume of traffic as do the airlines flying from main airports, such as Heathrow."

says Phil Chapman, planning director for Air UK. Even so, cynics would argue that Air UK's monopoly had led to East Anglian executives paying Britain's



LAWYERS representing both objectors to and proponents of a planned new fifth terminal at Heathrow last week quietly celebrated the 100th lucrative day of the public inquiry. It has been plodding through the arguments which must be heard before planning permission can be granted, Harvey

Elliott writes. Both sides claim to be confident that what they each regard as "common sense" will prevail and that Roy

Inquiry drags on

pointed by the Department of Transport, will eventually decide in their lavour. It is now regarded as unlike-

that the inquiry will finish before the summer of 1997, well over two years since it

Meanwhile, Heathrow has reached record numbers of passengers — 50 million a year — and is continuing to grow at such a rate that it is in danger of grinding to a halt through overcrowding.

Already at peak times all the car parks are full, with queues of cars and coaches stretching back along the M4, and passengers are becoming increasingly irritable at the sheer volume of people in the existing four terminals.

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Dallas Cowboys coach targets his critics before Super Bowl shoot-out

Switzer sees salvation within reach

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

A RELIGIOUS fervour that seems foreign to the godless wastes of most professional sport has always clung to the Dallas Cowboys. Their former coach. Tom Landry, was known as God's Coach, and their former quarterback. Roger Staubach, was God's Quarterback. Out there, where the vastness of Texas inspires awe in nature and the land gushes with oil, it is easy to graft a little divine providence on to the tootball team. in the past two years, though, the spiritual waters

have become muddled. As the Cowboys prepare for their here on Sunday, as hot favourites to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, the religious imagery remains, but it is confused. The problem is their



head coach, Barry Switzer, His legions of critics have taken to calling him "the anticoach" and he talks about how the qualities of "redemption and vindication" have slipped from his grasp, Men like Landry and Don

Shula, the recently-deposed Miami Dolphins head coach, acted like evangelists and the shock of their passing has not been eased by the ascension of a man with Switzer's reputation. The demons have raged around him since he was a child growing up in the poverkansas, where his bootlegger father was shot dead by police. His mother committed suicide when he was 18.

He found a measure of salvation in building an outstanding 15-year record as head coach of the University of Oklahoma before chaos returned. He encouraged his young players to dress how they wanted and say what they wanted, but they went too far. One was arrested for shooting a team-mate, three



Switzer directs operations as the Cowboys progress towards their third Super Bowl in four years. Photograph: Doug Pensinger/Allsport

tempting to sell cocaine to an undercover FBI agent. Switzer was forced to resign.

There was an inevitable outery two years ago when the Cowboys' controversial owner, Jerry Jones, dismissed Landry's popular successor. Jimmy Johnson, despite two successive Super Bowl triumphs, and handed Switzer the job. Some players threatened to quit and commentators said Switzer was just an obedient vehicle for Jones's

coaching ambitions. Switzer was pilloried when the Cowboys failed to reach a third consecutive Super Bowl at the end of his first year and. earlier this season, he was harangued for tactical blunders that cost the team a victory against the Philadelphia Eagles. That led to head-lines like "Bozo the Coach" "Dumb and Dumber". "He doesn't get it." Mike Ditka, the former Chicago Bears coach, said. "He's missing the whole boat."

His descent into darkness

seemed inevitable, but, as the Cowboys fought their way impressively towards the Sun Devil Stadium here, the critics began to waver. Suddenly, his players began saying how much they respected him, how he may not be a clever manipulator like Johnson but is a subtle motivator, that he boosts the confidence of his men with his support. He is on the verge of transformation

from sinner to saint and there

is nothing like the concentrated hype of Super Bowl week to accelerate the process. Deion Sanders, the Cow-

boys' celebrated cornerback and receiver, led the backlash of praise with typical immod-eration yesterday. "Barry's a great guy, man." he said. "To criticise him was really uncalled for. Soon Barry will look like the genius he is. He's a great coach and a great friend. We stick up for Barry because we gotta lotta love for him. There ain't no monkey on his back,"

Switzer. 58, makes a good job of his own defence, too. There is no bitterness in his words, even if there is ner-He is candid, amiable and

articulate. After you listen to his players affirming their admiration for him, hear his explanations of his actions and remember the exalted position the Cowboys find themselves in, "Bozo the Coach" takes on the air of

devilish invention. "They say this is still Jimmy's team and that I have not made any changes," he said, "but to have done so would have just been ego and that is unimportant to me. The smart thing is not to mess things up in a great team. The dumb thing is to change things just

to make a show of it. "People say I'm not assertive enough, but I don't have to dog-cuss anybody to get my message across to them. When I played, if somebody threw me a bouquet or patted me on greater effort.

You'll always have your critics, but, to me, they're all molecules in the spectrum of the universe. Vindication and redemption are not part of me. If I could win over all of them, it might be, but, after 35 years in this sport, I know that is not possible. They can sit back and take their shots when they want to. They have had to pull back in right now, but they'll reload and fire when it's time to fire.

Salvation may be his if Dallas win on Sunday. Lose, though, and America will make him a martyr to the

Beadsworth banks on financing Olympic medal bid

FROM EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ANDY BEADSWORTH bas the talent to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Savannah this summer, but he may not have the money. Going for gold in sailing now requires a full-time programme from the completion of the national trials to the Games themselves — a tenmonth intensive schedule and Beadsworth, the British Olympic Soling team member, with his crew, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, has calculated that he needs around £120,000 to fund the campaign. He is still nearly £60,000 short.

Yesterday, he was training at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club before the opening races in the Miami Olympic Class-es Regatta get under way today. His mind, though, was on finance.

"What we are trying to avoid is playing catch up," he said. The trio spent about £50,000 of their own money to get to the national trials in Weymouth last August. Since then, National Lottery funds have bought them a new boat, costing £30,000, and they have received £35,000 from the Royal Yachting Associ-ation. They are getting help from Mars, for whom Parkin works, and from rigging and clothing manufacturers, but there is still a yawning gap, which an expected grant from the Sports Aid Foundation will not fill.

If they do not get the money, they will compromise.

"We'll have to pare down what we spend," Parkin said. "and we'll end the Olympics with huge overdrafts." Beadsworth knows how

that feels, having taken 3½ years to pay off the £12,000 debt he was left after his unsuccessful Olympic trials in the Soling class in 1992. ☐ Bethan Raggatt and Sue Carr, the British women's 470 team, have secured a £25,000 sponsorship from Yale, the

security products company.

Australia stalwart decides to leave Test scene

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID BOON is to retire from international cricket after the third Test against Sri Lanka starting at the Adelaide Oval today. The Australia No 3 has scored 7,334 runs, including 21 centuries, in 106 Test appearances since making his debut against West Indies in 1984-85. Boon, left out of his country's World Cup squad, is to continue playing for Tasmania.

Brian Lara has been included in the West Indies squad for the World Cup next month, despite his last-minute withdrawal from the team that played in the World Series Cup in Australia.

The selectors have also recalled Keith Arthurton, a middle-order batsman, and kept faith with the wicketkeeper. Courtney Browne. Phil Simmons, Stuart Williams and Andy Cummins have been dropped from a party that includes only one special-

ist opening batsman. New Zealand, England's first opponents in the World Cup, have recalled the allrounders. Chris Harris and Shane Thomson, to their squad Thomson will be the second spinner behind Dipak Patel. The fast bowler, Danny Morrison, who missed the two Tests against Zimbabwe, returns after injury.

The opening pair, Grant Flower and Stuart Carlisle. both scored half-centuries be-fore Zimbabwe settled for a draw in the second Test at Eden Park. Set 367 to beat New Zealand, they finished at 246 for four.

Alamgir Sheriyar, 22, the former Leicestershire left-arm fast bowler, who took a hattrick against Durham on his championship debut in 1994. has joined Worcestershire on a

two-year contract.

NEW ZEALAND SOUAD: L K Germon (captain), N J Astle, C L Cairns, S P Fleming, C Z Hanis, R J Kennedy, G R Larsen, D K Montson, D J Nash, D N Patel, A C Perore, S A Thomson, R G Teiose, C M Sneuman.

Court of Appeal

Law Report January 25 1996

Chancery Division

how clear his view was.

Power to replace council

and Others Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Tuckey

Judgment January 241 Where the Local Government Commission recommended that seven councils in Berkshire should be replaced by a single-tier structure of five new unitary authoricounty council and the combination of two existing authorities, the Secretary of State for the Environinder the Local Government Act 1992 were sufficient to enable him

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal from Mr Justice Collins on October 6, 1995, who had given Council, who had challenged a announced on March 21, 1995. recommendations of the commission in relation to the council's

authorities should remain

existing area. Mr Stephen Richards and Mr state: Mr Duncan Ouseley. QC and Mr Clive Lewis for Berkshire

gent & Co

Council and the Royal Borough of

said that the issue could be put very simply: the commission state to accept, reject or implement

was what happened. that the commission had recommended structural change for each change to facilitate structural

tion of the recommendation.

Windsor and Maidenhead. LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY

mended that two existing borough councils, Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead, be combined to form a new unitary authority. That was a discrete dation which section 17(1) of the Local Government Act 1992 permitted the secretary of in a modified form. What he could not do according to the applicants. whatever language he might use, was to reject the recommendation ferent, and that, they contended.

The secretary of state submitted existing district or bornugh council and in addition a houndary

It was the structural change, universal support, which was the realised it became possible to rejecting the proposed boundary change was more than a modifica-

WLR 1245, 1257): "To some extent the matter must be one of impression . . . For one proposal to be fairly regarded as a modification of another proposal, one must be able to perceive enough in it of that

> that other proposal, even though changed." In relation to the statutory provisions which were being considered, Mr Justice Jowitt said in R v Secretary of State for the Environment. Ex parte Lancashire County Council (1994) 4 All ER 165, 173): ... although the secretary of state has wide powers to modify the commission's recomthem so that they become a different animal. It is a question of

other to recognise it as still being

Mr Ouseley contended that careful reading of section 14 of the 1992 Act and of the commission's proposed structural and boundary changes were so interlinked that it was not possible for the secretary of state to accept the structural change and reject the boundary not agree with the composite section 15 and direct a further he could not. Mr Ouselev submit-

His Lordship concluded that the case had suffered from a consideration of individual statutory provisions which had been so clos as to lose sight of the relatively simple structure of the 1992 Act. Pursuant to section 13 the sec-

retary of state had directed the conduct a review of the whole county of Berkshire. That enabled the commission to recommend the type of changes defined in section 4 That submission empowered the secretary of state to give effect to all or any of the recor tions with or without modifications.

Although the five unitary authorities option was embraced in what the commission described as its first final recommendation. the commission's form of presenta tion was not conclusive, as Mr Justice Laws had pointed out in R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Wycombe District Council tunreported, May 25, For each of the five areas

considered the recommendation was that there be structural change to a single tier of local five areas there was recommended a boundary change which, for economic reasons, the commission considered necessary to facilitate

the structural change.
The recommendations were free standing in that the secretary of state could have accepted the recommendation to create a unirejected the remaining recom-mendations, but there was also a degree of interlinkage as was demonstrated if one envisaged the secretary of state deciding to create four unitary authorities but taking no action in relation to the fifth. The rums of the county would be

overnment. That showed that section 17(1) of the 1962 Act had to be read in context, and given a generous interpretation. The boundary change proposed, although substantial, was only proposed to facilitate the proposed structural

cally quite minor, and yet, if Mr Ouseley was right, the secretary of state's hands would have been tied. He could not have rejected the and given effect to all the proposed structural changes having modified this Lordship used the word advisedly) the area in which one of the recommendations for structural change was to take effect. That could not be how section 17(1)

Over, Reading: Mr A. I. Jack,

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

Council Directive 77/187/EEC, the No L61/26) clearly required member states to provide, on the transfer of an undertaking, protection only for employees' accrued sion to require provision for the protection of prospective pension

rights had to be regarded as Article 3(3) had been correctly transposed into the domestic law of the United Kingdom by the Trans-fer of Undertakings (Protection of No 1794) It was therefore un-

provides: "I The transferor's rights and obligations arising from a ing on the date of a transfer within reason of such transfer, be trans

72 Following the transfer . . . the

-3 Paragraphs | and 2 shall not cover employees' rights to old-age, invalidity or survivors' benefits under supplementary company or inter company pensions schemes outside the statutory social security chemes in member states

elerred to in the first subparagraph.

and Mr Jason Coppell for Lancashine Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Peter Cranfield for BET. MR JUSTICE ROBERT

WALKER said that the Government's position was that it had implemented the second sub-paragraph of article 3(3 by the social security legislation now reenacted in Part IV of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

controversial and difficult. Two points, however, seemed clear: that its general purpose was to protect workers rights in a period of rapid economic and technological change via partial armonisation of their righ that its final text did, for reasons

parties' principal submissions on the directive, referring to some two dozen authorities, before concluding that it was a short point, or which he had very little doubt. The first subparagraph of article 3(3) used wide, general language to make an exception from the wide,

general language of article 31): the European Court decision in Abels v Bedrijfsvereeniging voor de Metaalindustrie (Case 135/83) (1985) ECR 469) was at least consistent with, and probably supported that view.

have been used.

When national legislation was public interest in activing crintended to implement Community law the national court would be predisposed to find such intention had been achieved; see

AC 618, 638) per Lord Temple matter be referred to the European Court. Although the facts had been established and the issue could be

simply formulated, the two most

money lay in a refusal to refer. Biddle & Co.

Partners; Mr Ian Pye, Preston:

His Lordship disclaimed any

 $\{Y_{i,j}\}_{j=1}^{n}$



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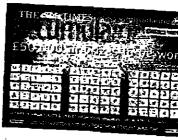
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Mrs J Locke of Colne, Lancs; Mr T Dickinson of

Buckhurst Hill, Essex: Mrs E Fryer of Wadebridge,

Cornwall; Mr F Earle of Heswall, Merseyside; Mr A South of Towcester, Northants; Mr D Poole of Carbis Bay, Cornwall and Miss H Sheppard of Harrow, Middx.

FREE FLIGHT WINNERS

THESE ARE THE GAME I NUMBERS YOU SHOULD SCRATCH OFF YOUR

2 FOR 1 VIRGIN FLIGHTS - SEE PAGE 6

CARD TODAY

liggins piral i lecline

Accountant has no lien over company papers lien over certain categories of DTC (CNC) Ltd v Gary Sardocuments for unpaid fees. Before Mr Michael Crystal, QC accounting and record documents. (Judgment January 19) specifically (a) sales invoices (b) purchase invoices (c) cheque books An accountant was not able to exercise a lien for unpaid fees over (d) paying in books and (e) bank

the accounting records of a com-pany which were required by statute to be kent in specific places for certain periods available for Mr Michael Crystal, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment on a notice of motion

able in some circumstances. issued by DTC (CNC) Ltd secking an order that Gary Sargent & Co, a firm of accountants, deliver up to it, inter alia, all accounting records owned by DTC which were in the accountants' possession. Mr John Machell for DTC: Mr Richard Handyside for Gary Sar-

HIS LORDSHIP said that DTC had retained Gary Sargent & Co as its accountants and during the retainer had delivered door dealing with its business affairs to When the retainer ended DTC asked to have its documents returned but the accountants declined to return them on the ground that they were entitled to a

a lien over books of accounts, files and papers which had come into their possession in the course of their work was well established: Woodworth v Conroy [[1976] QB 884). However, the right to exercise such a lien might not be enforce-

For example, section 246/2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 made such a lien unenforceable when a company was in administration or liquidation or where a provisional liquidator had been appointed "to the extent that its enforcement would deny possession of arry books, papers or other records to the office-holder".

There was a line of authority in relation to solicitors that a solicitor was not able to exercise such a lien ments were required by statute to be kent in a specific place: see In re ation ((1883) 24 Ch D 408) followed in In re The Anglo-Maltese Hydraulic Dock Co Ltd (0585) 54 LJ Ch 730). There appeared to his Lordship to be no relevant distincposition of a solicitor and an accountant in that respect. Therefore the principle laid down by the Court of Appeal in In re Capital Fire Insurance Association applied to accountants and solicitors.

Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985, as amended by section 2 of the Companies Act 1989, imposed a duty on a company to keep accounting records. Section 222 specified where and for how long the records were to be kept. Those were important provision of the 1985 Act for which there was a criminal sanction if they were not complied with

Mandatory duties were imposed on officers of the company to keep the records where they were onen for inspection. In those circumstances, the documents within section 221 fell squarely within the principle in In re Capital Fire Insurance Association.

Accordingly, each of the caregory of documents (a) to (e) should he delivered up to DTC. The accountants could not lawfully retain a lien over them. Solicitors: Dawbarns, Wisbech.

Wright & Jakes.

left with two tiers of local

It might have been peographi-

was intended to operate. Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Tuckey agreed. Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor: Sharpe Princhard for Mr D. K. H. Future rights not protected

[Judgment January 17]

the European Court of Justice. held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an originating sum mons issued on October 4, 1994 by Barbara Adams and ten other school dinner ladies, previously employed by Lancashire County Council, after a successful compeitive tender to take over their work by the third defendant, BET Cater-

ing Services Ltd.
Article 3 of Directive 77/187

serve the terms and conditions agreed in any collective agreemen on the same terms applicable to the agreement.

Member states shall adopt the measures necessary to protect the interests of employees and of persons no longer employed in the transferor's business at the time of the transfer ... in respect of rights conferring on them immediate or prospective entitlement to old-age benefics, including survivors' bene-

Mr Brian Langstaff, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield for the

It was common ground that the directive had to be construed

Regina v Secretary of State County Council: Mr James modification Mr Richards relied on what was said by Mr Justice rejection of the Environment, Ex parter Berkshire County Council for Bracknell Forest Borough Megarry in Legg v ILEA [1972] 1 and a substitution of a decision of the recommendation and a substitution of the recomm sion rights were recognised by Community law as a form of pay, it was unfair to his clients to come to work for BET one Monday, finding, because they no longer had pension rights in respect of current service, their total pay was less than when they had stopped work for the council on Friday, obvi-

ously contrary to legislative In fact, however, the directive's final form bore almost no resemblance to the original proposal; so it might be conjectured that the Community had found the matter

which might have been practical or political or a mixture, make an exception for pension right His Lordship set out all three

The second subparagraph, on the other hand, used much more complicated and precise language to identify the interests which it was the duty of member states to otect for both current employees and ex-employees, language apt to describe accrued rights and nothing else.

even plainer had the word "ac-crued" been used and had the rective been drafted since Barber v Royal Exchange Group Assur-ance (Case C-262/88) ([1990] ICR Ten Oever v Stichting Bedrijfspensjoenfonds voor het Glazenwassers- en Schoonmaak hedriff (Case C-109/91) (11995) ICR 74) and Coloroll Pension Trusteen Ltd v Russell (Case 200/91) [[1995] ICR 179) no doubt "accrued" would

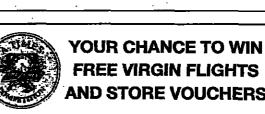
His Lordship bore in mind what the European Court of Justice had said in CILFIT v Italian I Ministry of Health (Case 283/81) ([1982] ECR 3415. 3430) as to the need to interpret such provisions with recard to the state of Community law, not at the date when a directive was enacted, but when it fell to be applied.

His Lordship's view of the directive did leave a gap but its language compelled him to conclude that the European Council must have recognised, and accepted that gap; hence there was no inconsistency between the

delusions of infallibility but be lieved the meaning of article 3 to be Mr Langstaff had urged that the

so clear that the parties' best

Solicitors: Brian Thompson &



Loss leaves Higgins in spiral of decline

THE decline of Alex "Hurricane" Higgins, the most controversial figure in the history of professional snooker, now seems irreversible after his elimination from the Embassy world championship by a part-timer market trader.

By far the worst season in Higgins's tempestuous 25-year career came to an acrimonious and undignified end in Blackpool on Tuesday night when he was beaten 10-7 by Surinder Gill, of Bournemouth, in the eighth qualifying round of the championship he won in 1972 and 1982. Higgins displayed such typi-cally petulant behaviour in defeat that the result did not generate the sense of loss normally associated with the last hurrah of a great

Higgins has lost 11 of the 12 matches he has contested this season. All of those defeats have come at the hands of less experienced, lowerranked opponents, four of whom are outside the top 100. With the exception of the 1990-91 season, when he was serving a suspension for a package of offences that included punching an official and threatening to have Dennis Taylor "shot", it is the first time that Higgins has failed to qualify for the concluding phase of at least one tournament.

He is now sure to be relegated from the world's top 64 when the rankings receive their annual revision in May. That will add two more matches per event to his already heavy qualifying load and it is difficult to imagine him reaching a main venue

Higgins, 47 in March, has not mellowed with the years. Entering the post-match press conference looking unsteady on his feet and reeking of alcohol. Higgins immediately launched into what has become a regular attack on the sport's governing body, the-World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA). Had the same complaints not been aired in public so many times before, impact. Given the circum- last Hurricane warning.

stances, it was impossible to escape the conclusion that they were merely convenient "I have 17 charges against

the association and over the next few weeks, if they don't answer them, I'll see them in the High Court," Higgins, who in recent years has also made a habit of being scathingly critical of many wellrespected referees, said. "My livelihood has been

taken by the association. I hope to disgrace the people who run this game. I fear the worst for this rotten gathering of old men and young boys who call themselves snooker professionals."

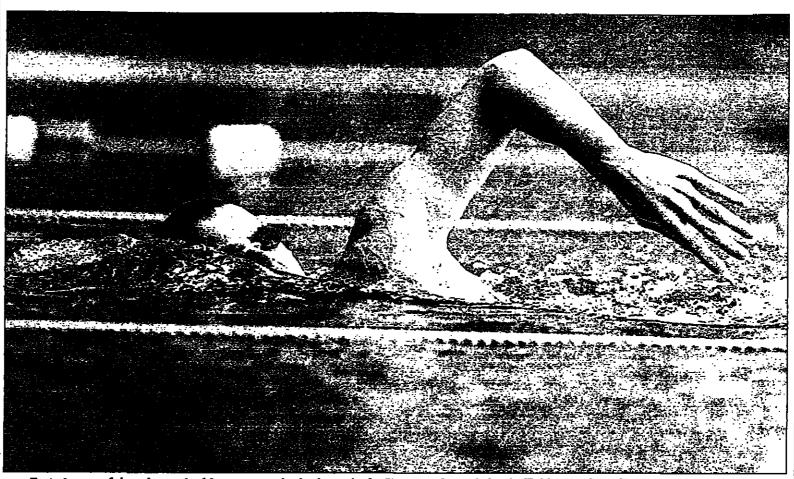
Higgins's solicitor, Robin Falvey, has filed his complaints, which are directed ariously against members of the WPBSA board, its tournament director, Ann Yates, its medical officer, Dr David Forster, and its solicitor, Matthew McCloy.

Higgins, though, could now be forced to attend another disciplinary hearing after being reported for making a "derogatory remark" to Law rie Annandale, an off-duty referee, as he left the Norbreck Castle Hotel.

As two years have not yet passed since Higgins was given a suspended one-year ban for infringements of the WPBSA's disciplinary code at the 1994 world championship, the alleged verbal abuse could have serious consequences. Effectively, though, the abysmal form shown by Higgins this season has already guaranteed his exile from the limelight. The same applies to Cliff Thorburn, the 1980 world champion, but there the similarity ends. Thorburn, unsuccessful in his last nine matches, seems unlikely to leave his Toronto base to compete next season, but has, in contrast to Higgins, stoicalaccepted his demise.

Higgins certainly looked like one of the "old men" to whom he referred as he struggled without success to contain Gill, who is No 91 in the world rankings. After this, they would have had more snooker could have seen its

Ruckwood and Foster prove their pedigree



Foster's powerful stroke carries him to an emphatic victory in the 50 metres freestyle in Sheffield yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

By Craig Lord

OUALITY stood out as Rembrandts would at a local arts and crafts show as the first of six European rounds of the swimming World Cup ended in Sheffield yesterday. Thankfully, at least two Britons, Adam Ruckwood and Mark Foster, were in the master

Ruckwood, 21, a sprout of chest hair showing that he had not shaved down for the World Cup and is still in heavy training, set a British record of Imin 56.00sec to win the 200 metres

Great Britain

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

IN BARCELONA

HOCKEY matches between

Great Britain and Spain usu-ally quicken the pulse and

yesterday's meeting in the Olympic qualifying tourna-

ment here was no exception.

backstroke. The time, 0.41sec inside the record he set this time last year and the third-fastest in the world this season, marks the latest stage of a seemingly unstoppable progress for the Birmingham swimmer. His best time has cascaded down from 2min 1.90sec in 1993, through 2min 0.15sec in 1994 and Imin 56.41sec last year.

There is much more to come from Ruckwood, who, like Foster, viewed Sheffield merely as a barometer to his progress in pursuing greater glories at the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer. Foster, 25, the defending

tion to secure one of the five

places in Atlanta after three

draws in four games. Holland

are the new leaders of the

group after an astonishing 9-4

victory over Belgium

Robert Thompson had two

early chances to give Britain the lead. His first effort hit the

crossbar while his second

opportunity was struck

gained the lead that their early

pressure deserved in the sev-

enteenth minute when Giles

Rag8

B14

Bvd2

Rtnb8

exd5

Kc7

Black resigns

Nevertheless. Britain

straight at the goalkeeper.

esterday.

World Cup sprint freestyle champion. was 0.61sec quicker than his nearest challenger in the 50 metres freestyle - a race in which just 0.2sec often splits eight swimmers in a field of high quality.

Foster could be pleased with the technical progress he is making in his quest to rival the favourite, Alexander Popov, in Atlanta, but, on yesterday's overall performances, the swimmer to watch for at the Games is Ding Chujin. Ding's progress from outside the top 100 in the world last year into the top ten brought him a second

World Cup victory in Sheffield yesterday, with a time of Imin 0.87sec in the 100 metres breaststroke.

Ding, 20. is similar in style and physique to Norbert Rozsa — the muscular Hungarian who was virtually unknown before he deprived the British swimmer, Adrian Moorhouse, of the world No I spot in sprint breaststroke in 1991. Yesterday. Ding was never in danger of being defeated and he maintained his fast pace in the closing metres when others started to tire. His relative progress since 1993 puts that of Ruckwood in the shade.

Armstrong wins place on bench for visit of France

By MARK SOUSTER

AFTER threatening the axe in he event of failure in Dublin. the Scotland rugby union se-lectors have, in the light of an uplifting victory, understand ably named an unchanged side to face France at Murrayfield on Saturday

However, in announcing vesterday the team that won 16-10 at Lansdowne Road in the teeth of a gale, rain and a torrent of pre-match criticism. Jim Telfer, the chairman of selectors, said that selection had not been a "rubber-stamp exercise" — a statement that may give hope to the backs. Kenny Logan and Craig Chalmers, who are again over-

ident before the game, still existed, he said, particularly at the lineout, while some players showed a worrying naivery about some laws of the game. which France, of all sides. would exploit.

"However, we decided that the team performance, especially in defence, was greater than individual performances and it would have been remiss of us to drop anyone having played well," Telfer said.

three, as well as including Damian Cronin to counter the physical threat France will pose, but decided to keep faith with players who rose to the occasion in Ireland.

The only change to the 21man squad is the inclusion. among the replacements, of Gary Armstrong, now of Newcastle, who showed, especially during the second half in Scotland A's defeat by their Irish counterparts last Friday. that he is fast regaining his appetite and form.

been unthinkable even to consider replacing Bryan Redpath, who was outstanding in Dublin and is a player whose game. Telfer said, fitted Scotland's new approach and whose service, against Ireland, was as good as he had

Britain surrendered the lead twice and should have capitalised on their territorial advantage earlier.

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Playing on your weakest suit seems odd, but it can be effective at all levels of the game. This is a hand from the match between China and Italy, in the round-robin stage of the 1995 Marlboro

iuda Bowl.		
Dealer East	'Game All	IMP
	• Q543	
	♥ K93	
	+1052	
	♦ 10 4 3	
÷92	N +Jas	
▼ A874	W E ₹1052	
+K43	#AJ98	6
∳ J872	95	
	♠ A K 10 7	
	₹0 16	
	+Q7	
	AAKO6	

Contract: 3 NT by South

Lead: Four of bearts

South opened 2 NT and North raised to 3 NT. In the Bulletin other table, but the Italian of the event, Barry Rigal reported that Versace (South, for Italy) had a poor result on the previous board. With that preying on his mind, he was in the mood for a coup. The fact that Four Spades was laydown against reasonable hreaks might have affected

Having escaped a diamond lead, many players would have taken the losing line of playing spades and clubs. hoping to make eight tricks there to go with the heart won on the opening lead. However, after winning the queen of hearts in hand, Versace crossed to the queen of spades and led a diamond to the queen and king.

and continued hearts and now

contract was also 3 NT at the

West led a diamond and beat the contract at once. ☐ The 1996 Macallan International pairs championship started yesterday, at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London, NWI. Early leaders were the British junior world champions Jason and Justin Hackett.

Scores after one round: 1 J & J Hackett (GB) 59 victory points; 2 A Forrester & A Robson (GB) 53 VPs; 3 N Nickell & R Freeman (USA) 52 VPs; 4 Sabine Zenken Auken & Daniela Von Arnim (FRG) 49 VPs; 5 P Schemla & M Perron (France) 44 VPs. Ticket information: 0181-878

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on Not unnaturally, West won bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

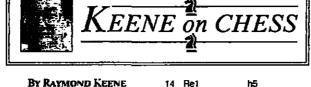
CHERRYBUMS a. The 11th Hussars b. Raw recruits

 c. Soldiers in Heaven SALTHORSE

a. Salt beef b. A non-specialist naval officer c. A naval riding school

LORD LOOK-ON a. The first accredited war corr b. Lord Lucan c. The Grand Old Duke of York

UMBO a. United Corps of MOs b. US Marine Band Organisation



15 B/1

17 Qe3

19 a4

20 a5

21 Qe2

23 Ra3

24 d5

25 cxd5

26 Bb5+

27 Bc6

22 Oxd2

CHESS CORRESPONDENT British wins

The British contingent was much in evidence in the Gausdal tournament that finished last week in Norway. John Emms, from London, celebrated his recent award of the grandmaster title by winning this sharp, attacking game. Not to be outdone Robert Bellin, the former British champion, also notched up a miniature win.

White: Emms Black: Haveland Gausdal, January 1996

3 Nc3

4 Nf3

5 d4

Centre Counter Defence

Qa5

7 BC4	6	Bd2	c6	6	N
9 Nxt8+ Qxt6 9 10 Ne5 Nxt7 10 11 Nxxt7 11 12 c3 Qg6 12 13 0-0 Bxt6 13 Diagram of final position 15	7	Bc4	e6	7	e
9 Nords + Qvd6 9 10 Ne5 Nor7 10 11 Nord7 Kvd77 11 12 c3 Qg6 12 13 0-0 Bd6 13 Diagram of final position 15 8 2 1 1 8 16 17 18 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8	Not5	Qd8	8	b
10 Ne5 Nd7 10 11 Nxd7 Kxd7 11 12 c3 Qg6 12 13 0-0 Bd6 13 Diagram of final position 15 E		Nxt6+	Chd6	9	ø
11 Nxd7 Kxd7 11 12 c3 Qg6 12 13 0-0 Bd6 13 Diagram of final position 15				10	В
12 c3				11	N
13 0-0 8d6 13 14 Diagram of final position 15 8				12	0
Diagram of final position 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 24 25 26 26 26 27 26 26 27 26 26 27 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28		0-0	_	13	В
18 17 18 19 20 31 1 21 22 23 23 Che	-	-	-	14	В
17 18 19 20 20 21 22 23 23 24 26 27 26 27 27 28 29 20 21 22 23 24 26 26 27 28 28 29 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	IJ	ragra	m or unar bozrou	15	В
1	a Fi	2 35	1233 234 728	16	b
19 20 20 21 19 22 23 23 24 25 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26	L		10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	17	9
20 21 1 22 23 23 Che	7	4 23	26	18	В
20 21 22 23 24 25 Che	sΓ	7	0 (3) (4)	19	В
* 主	Ι,	<u>سية جي</u>	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	20	В
20 加加 che	5	45	建工 微星级	21	R
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	'E	<i>110</i> ,	<u> </u>	Sp	חיכ

White: Robert Bellin Black: Olkinuora Gausdal, January 1996 Schmidt Benoni 2 Nc3 රජ 3 d5 4 e4 Nbd7

Ni3 Ng4 Nde5 K/8 Bb5-55 **Bb7** Rc8 No.g4 R18 b18+ Kxd8 313+ Bt6 3xl6+ Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

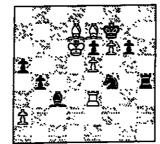
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

abcde fgh

White to move. This position is from the game Adams -Hodgson, Hastings Premier. 1991. Here, White found a way to force a gain of material that subsequently led to him winning the game. What did he play?

Solution on page 42



TABLE

Britain settle for point after losing lead twice

was the spur Spain needed immediately Escarre missed an easy chance by shooting over.

them fifth in the tournament position on the bench to score to the interval, with Mason Maurino forced the hall home

Thompson shot home.

intentions. Spain duly equalthrough Amat. Britain's response was inst-

ant and they were back in front two minutes later. Nick Thompson delivered the ball from the left and Robert Spain's tactic of not conceding short corners meant that Giles was confined to the

bench while their strategy of attacking from the right kept Britain pegged back. Their second equaliser came in the the 55th minute, when Garcia table, comfortably in conten- from a short corner. The goal saving from Escarre, and, after a frantic scramble.

scare for Britain when Spain failed to convert a short corner relieved David Whitaker, the Britain coach, said: "When they won their only penalty corner 25 seconds from the end. I was glad to get away with a draw."

SPAIN: R Juliese J Malgosa J Amar R Sala, J Amau V Puoli J Garcia-Maurine P Usos, A Iglavias, J Escand, - Amau Subsi used Y Escude J Dinares GREAT BRITAIN S Mason (Reading) J Wyatt (Reading) Some Singh (Southgato). G Fordham (Hounslow), Kalbir Takher (Cannock) S Haziff (Hounslow), C Mayer (Cannock), J Shaw (Southgate), R Thompson (Hounslow). J Laslett (Teddingtor, captain) M Thompson (Mol Loughoroens). Subs used: C Giles (Havani) M Hoskin (Reading), D Half (Guidtord) Umpires: Pivon Reth (Halland) and Sighters (Denmark)

RUGBY UNION HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division, L'a-nelli 39 Ebbw Vole 8, Swansea 13

Pontypridd 9
WELSH RUGBY UNION MIDWEEK COM-PETITION: Pool B: Durnani 72 Temby Utd 12 Natherth 5 Landavery 18 Pool C-Lanharan 34 Scun Waler Polce 15 Pool D. Bonymaen 18 Maesteg 36, Tondu 6 Ysuadig niber 30 REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Oxford University 25 RAF 23

SKIING

VALLOIRE, France: World Cup: Men: Super-giant statom: 1 H Frans: (Austria) Inns: 01 29sc; 2, A Skaarda (Non 10 13 5 3 F Nobeg (Swe) 10 157, 4, 3 Mader (Austria) 10 163 5 A Fation (Int 10 17) 6 equal, 1, Alphand (F) and D Ranher; (US) 10 1 2 British poelition, 49 G Bell 10 423 Lending standards: Super-great statom; 1

101 "2 Birtish poeitron, 46 G Bell 102 3 Lending standargs, Super-gent statom, 1 Skaadal 2005ts 2 knaus 189 3 L kus-Nori 180 4 hyberg 141, 5 R knoell Austral 125, 6 A Fation (iff 95 Overalt, 1 hus 956, 2 G Mador (Austria) 753, 3, M Yon Gringen (Switz) 726, British position, 125 Bell 6

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL Embassy world champronship: Eighth qualitying round (England
unless stated) Dible (Wales) by Johnson
10-7 G Groene bit Dible (Wales) by Johnson
10-7 G Groene bit Dible (Wales) 10-9 R
Lawler bit D Carlot (10-8 A Bolsower bit D
bodd (10-6) E Henderson (Scott bit P
Johnson (10-6) M Halleri bit (Brumby
10-5 J Barch tit C Shade (Scott bit M
Flowerdew bit G Saldrey 10-4 M Draws bit P
Burrows (10-7 C Madellinna) (Scott bit M
School) (Wales) 10-8 J Murphy (If the bit 3
Doit (Scott 10-8, A Donert (Wales) bit M
Daewhallowsky (Scott 10-7 D Flower bit M
Daewhallowsky (Scott 10-7 D Flower bit M

Juage (tre) 10-7, SiGdl br A Higgins (Nike)

SWIMMING

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: World Cup meeting: MemFreestyle: 100m. 1, S. Birm. (Jam.)

49 98sec 3 M-Foster (Cr. of Cardift 50 nd)

400m. 1 D Loader (N2) Jmin 45 59sec 2 P.
Palmer (Chn.) 1 Wiley (Barnet Copital)

54 28sec 2, A. Rickwood (City of Berningham) 54 50 Breaststocke S0m.
Chym. Ding. (Chn.) 2 Breaststocke S0m.
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FOR THE RECORD

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Weaknesses, which were ev-

The selectors also toyed with the idea of reshuffling the back

However, it would have

SCOT.
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Gresty Road's guru under the microscope

ere and there, football has its minor manthough they tend not to get noticed. Jack Charlton or Brian Clough have received due credit, but those such as Alan Ashman, with Carlisle United. Jimmy Sirrell or Bobby Gould, making bricks without straw, mostly fade into folklore without acquiring lasting

Dario Gradi belongs to the latter breed. Could Alex Ferguson or Kenny Dalglish, with-out inexhaustible chequebooks at their elbow, do what Gradi has done with Crewe Alexandra? Gresty Road, that narrow, terraced red-brick northern street, has changed little in the 120 years since Alexandra was founded, yet step inside the football ground today and it could have come from a Conran design

Born in 1942 in Milan, educated at Glyn Grammar School in south London, an

MANCHESTER UNITED

and AC Milan, two of the most powerful clubs in European

football, have joined forces by drawing up an accord to create an influential voice on

important matters in relation

The agreement will see the two clubs, among the wealthi-

est in the game, working

together over such matters as

the possible formation of a

European super league. They have also reached agreement over transfer links, where players could flow between the

Martin Edwards, the chair-

man of Manchester United,

confirmed that a delegation from his club visited Milan

last Friday and agreed to work closely on specific areas of common interest. "I don't want to be drawn," he said,

but it is true to say we are

looking at a transfer accord

post-Bosman and the key area of European competition.

too deeply. People could mis-

interpret the situation as the

take on Uefa [European foot-

ball's governing bodyl. It cer-

tainly isn't that, but we are

Both Manchester United

and Milan are concerned with

Uefa's continuing unbending

stance over the limitation of

clubs to use of three foreign

players in a match in Euro-

pean competition. They have

already suggested, along with

other powerful clubs such as

Barcelona and Arsenal, that

they will consider creating

their own competition if the

rule is maintained. Their pow-

erful alliance will reinforce the

organisational executive and

No 3 at the club, explained

Umberto Gandini, Milan's

looking at those areas."

"I don't think it is useful at this stage to go into the matter

to the recent Bosman ruling.

al in 1969 with Sutton United and one of the few. like Lawrie McMenemy, to become a league manager without hav-ing played the senior league game. Gradi is the definitive English professional.

He is as unremittingly hooked as diehards of the past, such as Bill Nicholson or Bill Shankly, men who lived the game every waking hour. seven days a week, from breakfast to bedtime. This is one reason he remains unmar-

"It probably won't happen now." he admits with a shrug. "Football is a drug, maybe as harmful. I've become selfish for what I want to do. But it's also a creative thing. The reward is seeing things hap-pen on match day that you've worked at in training for hours and hours — a 14-pass move that ends with a goal." Like Shankly, the light in his

United agree

influential

AC Milan

By David Maddock

that." he said.

clubs. United are interested in the internationals Maldini.

Eranio, and the Croatian,

Boban. Milan's thoughts are concentrated on Giggs. Schmeichel and Cantona.

Gandini added: 'The ma-

chinery is in place with regards to movement of players.

We see it as beneficial if both

freedom the players will have

in essence, the clubs would

escape the damaging financial

loss the scrapping of transfers

by setting up an agreement."

David Miller says Crewe will be finely tuned for their FA Cup visit to The Dell

viewed by the Football Associ- to his family', or he's 'conation for the new position of technical director, a possibility that remains in limbo. Meanwhile, he has more urgent matters on hand, such as pressing for promotion to the Endsleigh Insurance League first division and the FA Cup fourth-round match away to

Southampton on Saturday. In financial rankings. Gradi's budget is at marketstall level alongside the Asprey's milieu of Manchester United. Crewe's average wage is £17,000 a year, not per week. The other day, I overheard him discussing the possible purchase of a new player with a fellow manager. "So he thinks he can get X

thousand from another club does he . . . well, you tell him to go and get it . .. next thing, he'll be telling me he's got to be 'fair cerned about security' ... spare me that ... sorry mate, we'll get by. See you."

Giving early impetus to David Platt's career and the transfer of Rob Jones to Liverpool are milestones in Gradi's years with Crewe, yet the real achievement has been the conversion of a near-derelict relic into a thriving club, with an all-seat stadium and a generative source of young players. There are some 15 players in the league from Gradi's youth scheme and another 15 on his own books, including Fran Tierney, nearly sold to Liverpool for £700,000. Gareth Whalley, who played for the Endsleigh League against an Italian

league side, and Danny Mur-

phy, a member of the England Under-18 side last year, are



Gradi: refiner of talent

other products of a development scheme that costs £100,000 each year and handsomely justifies itself. Both were key figures in the Cup victory over West Bromwich Albion and central to the plans for toppling Southampton.
Whalley's a better technical

director, with the ball, than Platt, but not as effective,"

Gradi says. His ideal player is the one like Platt. or Bryan Robson, who can make goals, score goals, stop goals and never mind the fantasy.

Gradi, as coach, is an unusual blend of sophistication and pragmatism. The two men he learnt most from are Dave Sexton - "the nearest to what I wanted to be" - at Chelsea, and Charles Hughes, the FA director of coaching. with whom he worked as assistant with England ama-teurs and as FA regional

coach.
"Charlie is brilliant," he said. "So much of what he says is true, but his public relations are poor. What I've done is graft some of Hughes onto some of Sexton.

He is puzzled at the contrast between his own reputation. as a constructive coach intent on mobility, and the wide-spread disaffection for Hughes, alleged villain of the long-ball school. When Gradi took a team of his to be cern any difference.

What has kept him at Gresty Road? There's always been progress around the corner." he says, eagerly. "We've never stood still." Most evenings, he is involved in the local centre of excellence, helping Bill Prendergast, the parttime director, to coach ten-to-16-year-olds. He loves hard work, dislikes players who don't, is tolerant of defeat when players have worked.

"In every match, you've got to have had your moments.

The thrill of the game is working with teams, the adrenalin from winning and losing. That's why I'd rather coaches [as England technical director]. If I got that job, great. I'm not hunting for it."

Southampton? He looks for mobility, to punish any Southampton player who doesn't work. "If a flash of Le Tissier's touch floors us, that's life."

Grienke is angry at 'dismissal' by London **Broncos**

By Christopher Irvine

AS ONE Australian departed a Super League club coaching arrived. As London Broncos parted company with Gary Grienke, St Helens put out the welcoming mat for Shaun McRae.

Whereas London that said it had failed to reach agreement on a new contract, Grienke, who had been in charge since May 1994, claimed that he had been dismissed. "I'm pretty happy with the work I've done." he said. "I think I've left the club in a better situation than when I arrived."

It leaves London little time to find a successor before their opening Super League fixture, at Halifax on March 31.
"We've already had a number of inches and the successor in the super of inquiries from coaches interested in the job, but it's a major decision and we don't want to rush into anything." Barry Maranta, the club's chairman, said.

Terry Matterson, the cap-Terry Matterson, the captain, and Kevin Langer and Tony Rea, fellow players, will take charge for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie on Sunday at Dewsbury.

McRae's first sight of St Helens comes in the Challenge Cup at Castleford on Saturday. The Australian has signed a three-wear contract at

signed a three-year contract at Knowsley Road, in succession to Eric Hughes, who was dismissed last week, after McRae rejected a promotion from assistant coach to take full charge of Canberra Raid-

ers.
"I was feeling like a change myself and I always felt that my next job when I left Canberra would be as a head coach," McRae, 36 said on arrival yesterday. "The fact that happened to be St Helens is tremendous from my point of view in that I've been so highly regarded by their board of directors."

McRae, an assistant at international level to both Aus-

tralia and New Zealand.
compared St Helens to the
Canberra side of the late
Eighties.

"We were scoring many
points, but we were also
conceding a lot," he said. "We
did an awful lot of work to rectify that defensively. Fortu-nately, it didn't affect our attacking flair."





Campbell, left, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, take a break from the England training session. Picture: Hugh Routledge

Venables revels in questionable practice

YOU would have thought that, by now, Terry Venables might be fed up with questions. Apparently not. For most of this week, he has wanted to be asked more.

sitting close to a door marked

"exit" at the time.

would bring, by swapping their leading players when As a contender for question of the month, the one about their contracts are at an end. "I won't deny that we discussed whether he will change his that, and it is true to say that mind about stepping down as England coach after the Eurowe are looking at ways of mutually using the post-Bosman transfer system to our pean championship this sumbenefit," Edwards said. mer has probably been If the accord does yield any overtaken by the one to Harritangible benefits in terms of et Harman on the subject of transfers, it is unlikely to be resignation. However, it came up again yesterday and it had evident until the summer. when several Milan players. the same answer. No. It was Eranio, a right-sided midfield only a coincidence that he was

conclude the three-day England squad training session at Bisham Abbey, Venables said that he had been listening for the players asking good questions. "If they ask the right questions, that means they can see what is going on." Venables said. So what was going on? Work on a plan to beat Holland in England's final European championship group match, came the

"Holland are reputedly the best team in the competition and I would not disagree with that," Venables said. "They play differently to anyone else in the world. I have been looking to see how we deal with that

down to little parts of their game, then I spoke about it for a lengthy spell in the evening. On Tuesday, we practised in games of 11-aside, then watched videos and they |the players| started to recognise what was going on." Just as important, given that his squad of outfield players will be limited to 18, Venables became more aware of the players able to adapt.

The emphasis was on using three central defenders, as Holland do, rather than Enpland's traditional four-man rearguard. "The seeds of preparation," was how Venables described the exercise. "We were looking at it from our point of view and from the opposition."

Venables also spoke of playing two attackers wide and a central striker. "If you do that against Holland, you immediately make them play a back four, which is not what they want to do. so you have changed their game."

He said that international players had to be more adapt able than at club level. "Players at a club, especially if they are successful, think if you do something different and it does not come off, you revert to what is safe." Venables said. "But every time you go up a notch, you have got to learn more.

"If you are going to be with world players, world thinkers, minds up." Venables said he would be looking for "receptive minds" over the next few

'Apart from Barcelona when Crayff's been there, I don't think anyone in the world can play the way they [Holland] play," he said. "You have got to know it exactly right and you have got to improve it."

Venables said that he was very close" to knowing the final 20 for his squad. "Do you want me to name them now?" he said, prompting laughter among his inquisitors, who knew he would not. Only a few months to go, and thousands of questions re-

Hutchison provides inspiration

ENGLAND'S cricketers are poised for an innings victory in the second under-19 international against Zimbabwe in Harare. After helping to bowl out Zimbabwe for 47 on the first day by taking five for 11. Paul Hutchison took two more wickets for three runs as Zimbabwe slipped to 13 for two in their second innings. still 284 behind.

Earlier. England reached 344 for seven before declaring, after resuming on 120 for four. All the England batsmen were among the runs, David Nash eading the way with a painstaking 65 not out. He was well supported by David Sales (50), Owais Shah (45), Gareth Batty (35) and Usman Afzaal (19), who shared an unbroken partnership of 60 with Nash before the declaration.

Steer appointed

Golf: Basil Steer has been appointed president of the English Golf Union at its annual council meeting in London. Steer, 66, from Devon, who has just stepped down as a selector for both England and the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup side. takes over from Geoff Marks.

Double trouble

Ice bockey: Cardiff Devils and Sheffield Steelers, who are vying for the British League premier division championship, have arranged two friendly" challenge matches in the middle of a hectic February schedule - in Cardiff on February 14 and at Sheffield seven days later.

Sandor Iharos

Athletics: Sandor Iharos, the Hungarian middle-distance runner who set it world records for distances from 1,500 metres to 10,000 metres between May 1955 and July 1956, died in Budapest vesterday of heart failure at the age of 65. He missed the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary earlier that year.

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Hughes starts five-match ban after referee stands firm

player, among them, complete

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARK HUGHES will serve a five-match ban starting with Chelsea's FA Cup Tourthround tie at Queens Park Rangers on Monday after Robbie Hart, the referee. refused to back down over sending off the Wales forward against Everton in an FA Carling Premiership match. Chelsea provided the Foot-

ball Association with a videotape of the incident, in which Hughes was accused of stamping on David Unsworth, the Everton defender, and it was passed on to Hart for his observations. Hart nevertheless stuck to his decision that Hughes was guilty of serious foul play. despite the fact that Unsworth has supported Hughes's claim that it was was an accident.

It means Hughes must

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Call 0891 100 123 Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times serve a three-match ban for the sending-off, followed immediately by another two-match suspension for reaching 33 points with nine bookings already this season.

Lee Chapman, the veteran lpswich striker back at Leeds United on loan, has also lost his appeal against a sending-off. Chapman played only 27 minutes of his second Leeds "debut" against West Ham United on January 13, when the referee, Paul Danson, sent him off for dangerous use of an elbow. An FA spokesman said:

Elbowing offences are pun-ishable by sending-off, whether they are intentional or not. Leeds sent us the video, claiming contact by Chapman was accidental, but we did not even bother sending it to the referee. His decision was totally correct and the suspension

Chapman could therefore have played his last game for Leeds. A three-match ban, starting this Saturday, will cover the remainder of his loan spell for the Yorkshire club, for whom Tony Yeboah will then be available after playing for Ghana in the African Nations Cup.

Despite these verdicts. Manchester United will try to

use video evidence to clear Nicky Butt after his sendingoff against West Ham on

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, will hand the Football Association a tape of the incident which led to the midfield player's second yellow card, and he will ask the FA to judge whether Stephen Lodge, the Barnsley referee, made a mistake - the first time United have taken that step since the appeal system was changed on the introduction of automatic suspensions.

Butt faces a one-match ban on February 5 after his dismissal but Ferguson is convinced that his man was harshly punished when he was shown a second yellow card for a 75th-minute challenge on Julian Dicks.

Birmingham City are trying to sign Vinnie Jones. Wimbledon's transfer-seeking captain, and the Everton midfield player. Vinny Samways. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, was locked in a board meeting at St Andrew's before his team's Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final replay at home to Norwich City last night, trying to set up both transfer deals. He has made a £500,000 bid for Jones.

FOOTBALL RESULTS FA CUP. That round replay, Ordham Amend 2 Somhey 1 (Satram eway to Semetion Transit Dustrictural) ANGLOTTALIAN CUP Semi-finali Ipowon Transit Color Lab 4 Wood 2 Levice Pernant 5 Purfeel 1 Guardian Indurance Cup. Fourth round: Wormpham 2 Herbin 3 AVON RISURANCE COMBINATION: First

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Cousins progressing in leaps and bounds

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN SOFIA THERE is still a long way to

go, but for the moment at least Steven Cousins has achieved the best result by a Briton in the European figure skating championships since 1980, Torvill and Dean always excepted. He finished third in the men's short programme vesterday, exactly emulating the performance of his namesake. Robin Cousins, at Gothenburg 16 years ago.

Just now, men's figure skating is almost a precise split between those who can bring off the formidable jump combination of triple axel to triple toe loop and those who cannot. Yesterday Cousins was among the few who could, right at the start of his programme. There was a fear then, remembering a year ago, that he might have relaxed, believing the job al-ready as good as done. On that occusion he failed with his

"That taught me a lesson," he said yesterday. "I thought of the next thing, and after that the next thing, right to the end. Then he had punched the air, as though scoring the winning goal in the cup final. Asked about his expectations for tonight's final event, Cousins said: "I want to be aware of everything that's going on around me because

at last year's world champion-

ships I got too involved, too

intense and shut myself off." His free programme was poor on that occasion and dropped him from sixth to ninth. "This time I want to be really relaxed and really enjoy what is happening." he added. By rights. Cousins should have taken second place be-hind Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, of Ukraine, but the Bulgarian

judge failed to spot a glaring error on the part of Ilia Kulik, of Russia. the holder of the title. Kulik conspicuously contrived only a double lutz as his optional jump when the rules demanded a triple. The statutory deduction for such a mistake is 0.4, so that the judge's 5.8 for Kulik's technical merit should have been 5.4, a tenth of a point behind Cousins. The judges' five to four split for the Russian should have been in the Welshman's favour. As expected, Neil Wilson, 17,

from Belfast, played only a subsidiary role in yesterday's proceedings and was placed seventeeth. He has yet to master the triple axel and triple lutz, but he will be sure to win some new friends in tonight's free skating.

The holders of the pairs title, Mandy Voetzel and Ingo Steuer, of Germany, skated a flawless short programme, leaturing glittering triple toe loops, to lead their event.

مكذامن الأصل

Nicholson's stable jockey hopes to be back within three weeks

Maguire receives encouraging bulletin

ADRIAN MAGUIRE is to return to the saddle much earlier than expected after learning yesterday that inju-ries he suffered in a fall on Tuesday are not as bad as first

thought. Maguire braced himself for a six-week period on the sidelines when doctors at Leicester Royal Infirmary suspected he had sustained serious damage to his left knee. But Maguire's fears were allayed after a visit to his

specialist yesterday.

My doctor told me it was not the cruciate ligament but the mediate ligament that I ve injured," the jockey said. "He tells me it is not as important. I should be able to get back in two to three weeks, which I feel much happier about. I

THE BUT DAYS

Nap: TEINEIN (2.30 Wincanton) Next best: Lets Rumble (2.00 Wincariton)

couldn't have faced missing Cheltenham after what hap-pened last year. Maguire missed all three days of the Cheltenham Festival in death of his mother.

Maguire, who underwent intensive physiotherapy at his home yesterday, said he felt much better than when leaving the Leicester hospital on Tuesday evening. "I'm still quite sore," the jockey said, but it was one of those falls that could have been so much

The prognosis comes as welcome relief to Maguire, whose season has been punctuated by a series of nasty falls. Had he torn the cruciate ligament, he would have struggled to make the start of Cheltenham week.

David Nicholson, for whom Maguire rides, will be delighted with the news. Nicholson saddled three winners at last year's Festival but the gloss



Royal Athlete and Jason Titley, nearside, in full flight on their way to a 40-1 success in last season's Grand National at Aintree

In the short term, Nicholson has booked Tony McCoy to ride his Cheltenham Gold Cup candidate, Barton Bank, in the Pillar Property Investments Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday. Barton Bank will again be up against One Man, the King George winner, who pleased his trainer, Gordon Richards, in a gallop yester-

day morning. Norman Williamson, another jockey battling for fitness in time for Chelten-

was removed by Maguire's ham, remains optimistic he will return to the fray at Newbury next month. Williamson has spent the week in Ireland riding out for Eugene O'Sullivan, the Mallow-based trainer. He has been off the track since breaking his leg in a fall at Sedgefield in October.

"It's going very well," the jockey said yesterday. "I've not been schooling because I don't want to take any chances." However, he ruled out the prospect of his being passed fit to partner Master Oats in the Hennessy Cognac Irish Gold

Cup a week on Sunday. "Everything depends on some X-rays I'm having on February 5, but I'm hoping to be back for the Tote Gold Trophy meeting five days later." Williamson, stable jockey to Kim Bailey, is expected to return to

Britain early next week. Royal Athlete, the Grand National winner, is among 82 entries for this year's Aintree renewal on March 30. One of five candidates from the Jenny Pitman stable, Royal Athlete has yet to run the term but was yesterday reported in good

THUNDERER

Ultimate Warrior

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Spencer's Revenge.

heart by Mark Pitman, assistant to his mother. The horse has been trained all season with a repeat attempt in mind. Party Politics and Milinnehoma, the winners in 1994 and 1992 respectively, are also

Martin Pipe, who trains Miinnehoma, has set the handicapper something of a poser by including Carvill's Hill among his team of seven. 1992 Cheltenham Gold Cup. sponsored for the 25th c Pipe has indicated that utive year by De Beers.

Carvill's Hill is to resume his career in hunter chases, for which he has recently been qualified. The Grand National weights are to be announced in London a week on Tuesday.

The Ascot racecourse executive has guaranteed that the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes on July 27 will be worth a minimum of £500,000. The 12furlong contest, which follows Carvill's Hill has not run since the Derby as Britain's second his abortive attempt at the most valuable prize, will be 1992 Cheltenham Gold Cup. most valuable prize, will be sponsored for the 25th consec-

2.40 MACMILLAN HANDICAP

-0. 2.3, 104. 37) (7) 30-0 GACARLU 15 (D.BF.F.G) P Emer 9-7 34-1 LAST BUT NOT LEAST 12 gCD.G) R J Ho 51-3 G LA NGRI 23 (CD.G) J Bay 9-0 30-2 SURSET HARBOUR 20 WISSON 8-11 00-0 CHEMICAST 20 (D.F) D Nichols 8-10 3-24 DANCOMS JAKC 12 (CD.G.) J Bridge 8-1 606- DOUBLE OR BUST 38 A Memorante 8-1

3.10 disraeli maiden stakes

3-1 Last But Not Least, 7-2 Gi La High, 4-1 Sunset Harboer, 5-1 Double Or Busi. 6-

6-4 Rand, 7-4 Double-O-Seven, 7-2 Creeking, 10-1 Affsters Dancer, 20-1 Northern Miracle.

3.40 LLOYD GEORGE HANDICAP (£3,709: 7f) (6)

4.10 WILSON HANDICAP (£2,977: 1m 2f) (13)

20-0 CAMARY FALCON 10 (5) John Borry 5-10-0. V Smith 4
12-6 AMESOME POWER 21 (DL6) J Hills 10-9-11. A Cloth 9
350- ULTIMATE WARFIOR 131 (C,6) C Ozer 6-9-10. J Wasnes 6
0-00 LAMORA 14 5 Dow 49-9. R Coctram 8
01-3 TUTAL RACH 21 (8,CD) 6,6 R Ingram 4-9-7. T Ashiny (7) 12
00-0 CLAUGE 20 D Chapman 4-9-4. A Cultimar 7
05/ PRINCESS PARROT 573 Lord Hursingdon 5-8-13
Almee Cook (7) 1

1.30 Toute Bagaille 2.00 Lets Rumble 2.30 Morstock

3.00 Sunley Bay 9.30 Easthorpe 4.00 FOXTROT ROMEO (nap)

GUIDE TO DUR IN LINE RACECARD

WINCANTON

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)

1.3	0 _{EL}	ITE RACING CLUB JUVENILE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE	
(£2,355	: 2m)	(11 runners)	
1	35200	AL CORROCHE 21 (BF) (D Bass) k Curningham-Brown 11-7 M.A. Fitzgerald	Ē
2	003	DISSOLVE 14 (Western Solvents Lie) N Lampard 11-7	8
3	3525	HANDSON 7 (Burrow Razing) B Militaran 11-4	7
4	-4	TOUTE BAGALLE 20 (Knight Hawis Parinership) M Pige 11-3 D Bridgwaler	ě
5	055	KETCHCAH 7 (T Keiter) S Knight 11-0 S Burmugin	7
6	04663	ZINGSBAR B (V_BF) (D Holpen) J Brauley 11-0 A P McCoy	•
7	PSP00	HIBSH CROSS 7 (B) (P Winternam S Knight 10-13 G Upton	ı
8	02602	MASICAL BID 7 (B) (G Fry) Stadley 10-10	ű
9	0	SMILEY FACE 7 (1) Mursell) R Hodges 10-10	٠
10	3	ANNIA BANNANNIA 180 (405200 Racing) M Prov 10-9 J Lower	•
11	FP	PACERC OVERTURE 48 (R Bareott) C Barvett 10-5 B CEllord	
	_	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_

FOUTE BEGALLE 161 4th of 9 to Danbys Gorse in novace hundle at Tomcester (210, 508), KETCHICAN

2.00 MAURICE LISTER MAIDEN CHASE (£3,912: 3m 1{ 110yd) (16 runners)



7-2 Lets Rumble, 4-1 May Main Main, 9-2 Prior's 168, 6-1 Sanstee, 8-1 Doke Of Larcaster, 16-1 Doke, Braphar Designer, 20-1 others.
1995: ESSDOUBLEYOU 7-11-5 R Greene (4-1) Mrs J Rentwo-Borons 19 out

FORM FOCUS

BORD HILL about 27% 6th of 14 to Have A Nightcap in novace chase at Ludiow (2m, good) on psystimate start. DUNE OF LAYSCASTER 29 5th of 11 to Fether Countyman in movice chase at Notingham (3m 110yd, good). LETS RAMBLE 21 2nd of 14 to Ubu Vai in novace chase at MANIMAN MAN best Railbuilding II in 5-numer hunt at Wadebridge

2.30 TOTE BETTING SHOP HANDICAP HURDLE



(200), THE PARMANE 1-10-15 W	Latron (2-1) e seonê ji raji
FORM	FOCUS
ANCIO best effort this term 18%1 5th of 10 to source in handicap hardle at Chapastow (2m you, good), STATAJAJCK 18, 9th of 22 to Cheft's g in handicap hustle at Sundown (2m 110yd, d) on penultimate start, with KEEP ME IN MINIO heter off) 10x 13th. MEN completed double best Saint Ciel 5th 12-	Blue in handicap hurde at Exiter (2sn 24, solf) or prindicater start, with CABOCHEM (2th worse off) 341 11th, TESH JAY 251 12th and SARUGGLEN'S PORIT (3th worse off) left 2 out. MARRITICK 258 libit of 14 to 5 other bit handicap hurdle at Associ (2th 110yd, solg) with AMANDIO (1th belier off) 111 8th and KEEP ME IN MIND (1th

3.00 PAT RUTHVEN AND GUY NIXON MEMORIAL VASE

	mcap	ÇIZ	se: amai	EUTS: 1	3,73U.	SUD II	HUYUJ	្រ	rysers)			
1	348	22F	SUNLEY B	AY 7 (CI	1BF.G.S1	(May M.)	Sarbert P N	acholis 10	-12-0 Miss	P Carling	6)	田
ż	FP-4	SP	GIVUS A	BUCK 14	(B.C.D.	F.G.S) (A	(Costella)	D Essent	h 13-11-9	A Nusal		Ξ
3	3/14	SP/	Polar ri	GLON 7	30 F.G.S	i) (C Ma	roer) N He	nderson 1	0-11-8	C Vigors		-
4	40-4	24	some da	y Soon	19 (F)	K Powell) MiBrads	20Ct 11-1	1-4	A Beiton	(7)	93
5	38PO	P6	beau bae	BLLAND	19 (8,6	S) (Mars.	C Paterson) P Nicho	ds 9-11-4	J Cullety	(Z)	-
6	2211	-23	RECTORY	GARDE	14 (S)	(Lord Ca	dogan) T	Foister 7-	11-4 A	Thomas	M	90
7	F31F	-15	full of	FERE 20	(F,S) (J	Gliton I	i Balley 9	-11-1		C Bossner	(3)	90
8	/13	H- 1	STAR OAT	S 262P (D.G.SI (V	essem Se	ments (Still	N Lampan	11-01-01	F Breman	ന	_
9	65P5	-24	SLVERING	14 (B.	esi (si	Surfield) :	S Earle 10	-10-9		M Rimell E James	(6)	96
D												
1	1114	,E00		AGE 12	(F.S) (J	Coombe	M Coom	ba 11-10-	2 Males k	Coombe	(7)	80
2	1PP	LPF	ÇAVALERI	7 (\$1	(H Marin	55) H M	anners 7-1	OO		A Whate	m	-
3	P\$1-l	55	Blake's 1	Nondér	24 (F)	(The See	et Partners	λalp)ŘALa	er 6-10-0	P Henley	(5)	-
0	kandicar	ı Cə	olem 9-12	Risko's	Wonder 9	2						

BETTING: 3-1 Sunley Bay, 7-2 Reactory Garden. 9-2 Stiventia, 6-1 Full Of Fire, 12-1 Gives A Buck, Some Day Soon, Good Insight, 16-1 others

1995. SURLEY BAY 9-10-13 MBss. P Centeng (11-4 fay) P Nictions 12 rate

FORM FOCUS

FORM :	
IURLEY BAY 67 2nd of 14 to Norman Conqueror in andicap chaze over course and distance (good root) oft on penulinate start, with RECTIONY SOAPDEN 1th better oil) 121 3nd. SILVERIBIO (4th better oil) 54 4th and GIVLS A BUCK (10th better oil) died up 3 one	
SIVUS A BUCK about 421 5th of 5 to Bishops shand in handisap chast at Easier (2th 71 110)d.	

2nd of 11 to Blustery Fellow in handican chase at Worcester (2m, 7t, pood to firm) RECTORY GARDEN 4f 2nd of 10 to Too Plush in handicap chase at Bacgor (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penulin-reals start. made start. FULL OF FIRE best Jason's Boy 31 in 8-runnet refers' brandition change at Luglow (3m., amaticar notes; translicap chase at Lection (3n., good to firm; on penufamata start SZLMERNO 4/ 2nd of 15 to Hannell Lad in handlag chase at Easter (2m 71 110yd, good to soft) on penulturnale start with SURLEY BAY Selection: SURLEY BAY

3.30 TERENCE BRADY & CHARLOTTE BINGHAM CHASE
(Limited handicap: £6,710; 2m) (4 nunners)

1 1-11111 EASTHORPE 19 (0.F.G.S) (M Broughton) Miss H knight 8-11-7 ... J F Totay 89

2 1360-27 BARNA BOY 6 (6.5) (1. Wilson) N Henderson 8-11-4 ... M A Resperate 85

3 35-1131 NORTHERN ADDUCH 13 (0.F.G.S) (R Evars) R Hodges 9-10-12 T Descombe (5) 87

4 2221-3 MISTER ODDY 13 (0.6.S) (Mis R HIR) J King 10-10-7 ... Mr J Calletty (7) 91

BETTING: Evens Easthorpe, 5-2 Northern Saddler, 11-4 Barna Boy, 6-1 Missler Odd, 1995; MEDINAS SWAN SONG 7-10-7 A Tory (3-1) R Hodges 6 ran

FORM FOCUS EASTHORPE completed live-ituner beat Storm Allert 14 in handicap chase at Sandoum (2m, good to soft) short-head 3rd. MiSTER ODDY (2b soft) BARNA BOY 28 2nd of 5 to MORTH-ERN Local Day to a manalasu riders handicap chase at Word-star (2m, soft) on penaltimate start, with Word-star (2m, soft) on penaltimate start NORTH-ERN SADDLER (7th better 00) first 3rd. Selection: EASTHORPE

4.00 POTTERS HANDICAP HURDLE

478: 2m 6J) (17 runners)

350-50P LANSDOWNE 64 (D.S) (R Denmand) P Nichalls 8-12-0... M Grittons (7) (1)

350-50P LANSDOWNE 64 (D.S) (R Denmand) P Nichalls 8-12-0... M Grittons (7) (1)

53-332-7 ROYAL PIPER 6 (CD.S) (A Corrington) A J Wilson 9-11-11 ... A Tony 86

P22-14T SELVER STANDARD 54 (D.G.S) (Bit Jung) I Froster 6-11-9... B Licous 85

S2P3P1- ACE PLAYER 241 (8) (R Michaelson) D Chappell 8-11-2 ... R Greans 86

S2P3P1- ACE PLAYER 241 (8) (R Michaelson) D Chappell 8-11-2 ... A P MACDO 9-1

S20046-5 CARRIBO DAMRO 37 (D.F.S) (Mas P King) J King 10-10-11... S Upton 80

SPOP-55 SLIKAAB 7 (C.P) (B Ryall) S Hyall 11-10-10 ... M A PROperation S-19-9-55

SLIKAAB 7 (C.P) (B Ryall) B Hyall 11-10-10 ... M A PROperation S-19-9-55

SLIKAAB 7 (C.P) (B Ryall) R Hyall 11-10-10 ... M A PROperation S-19-10-10 ... M A PROPARE S-19-10 ... M A PROPARE S-19-10 ... M Michaelson S-19-10 ... M Michaelso

Long handicap: Dunin 9-13. Persistent Gunner 9-12, Mayfeld Park 9-12, Billy Barter 9-10
BETTING: 5-1 Cardy Carcer, 7-1 Landsles Phyde, 8-1 Footest Romae, Mr Phytaft, 10-1 Azz Player, Royal Piper,
Persistent Gunner, 12-1 others 1996: ROYAL PIPER 8-10-11 A Tory (16-1) Mrs J Remires-Barons 18 rag

LANSDOWNE best effort this term about 181 test of 5 to Great Marquess in handlesp hurdin at Newbury (3m 110yd, good) RDVAL PPER head 2nd of 9 to four Leader in handlesp hurdin at Nambury (3m 110yd, good) on oneutrimate start. SiLVER STAN-DARD best effort this term best Message 44 in 14-tumer handlesp hurdin at Stater of 13 1 10yd, good yeth RDVAL PPER (4th better oil) 13 1 10yd, good to 2nd 110yd, good with RDVAL PPER (4th better oil) 123 1 10yd, good to 110yd, good to 123 1 10yd, good to 110yd, good to 123 1 10yd, good to 123 1 10yd, good to 130 1 10yd, good

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS JOCKEYS fints 75 129 28 54 34 35 MSS J Phram
M. Pipe
M. Pipe
Miss in Unight
R Alber
D Gandotto
S Sherwood J Lower
T Descombe
S McCourt
W McFartand
R Fartand
B Clifford

HUNINGSBREE

12.50 Menelave. 1.20 Music Master. 1.50 Super Coin. 2.20 Mill O'The Rags. 2.50 Go Ballistic. 3.20 Alaskan Heir. 3.50 Miami Splash. 4.20 Sir Dante. Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.20 Mill O'The Rags. 4.20 BRAMLEY MAY (nap). The Times Private Handicapper's top reting: SIS

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

LAVO UTTURU RAIDERE RURI RUTECO RE	
(Div I: £2,740: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)	
101 2149 TM 20 (CDJF) J Jenkys 6-11-12	iton S
102 00- ALLEXTOR LAD 325 R Solver 5-11-5 E Hosthand	iga .
103 IPP DOCTOR HELL & R Dickin &-11-5	FLL .
104 P/O FRANK KNOWS 40 T Seems 6-11-5	(S)
105 30 GRAND CRU 58 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5 6 Lee	
106 40-0 LETS SE FRANK 71 C C Elsey 5-11-5 PH:	
107 36 MY CHEEKY MARY 20 D Necholson 5-11-5 W Mars	
108 3- POINTED REMARK 258 N Henderson 5-11-5 . J R Kawan	
109 300- SABBAO 353 Mrs S Lamyman 6-71-5 J MicLand	
110 -POO SHANNON LAD 40 A Carof 6-11-5 D MA	100 6
111 0 SUAS LEAT 75 J Jefferson 6-11-5 M De	
112 THE PALADIN A Touriel 6-11-5	έa.
113 0-1P WILDE MUSIC 75 (F) C Breds 6-11-5 D Galler	ther .
114 00-0 851 PROMISE 18 P Webber 7-11-0 R Bell	· (UTB
175 00- LAKOTA 257 C Jones 6-11-0 D Mare	din .
116 3324 MENELAVE 36 0 Sherwood 6-11-0	япа 9
117 80-0 RIO DANCER 14 H Chart 7-11-0 DOUBT	PUL .
11-4 Menetare 4-1 Tim, 5-1 My Cheeky Man, 6-1 Pomied Remark, 6	8-7 ih

1.20 OFFORD NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

.01	P135	WREN WARRLER 20 (D,S) Lins P Robesson 6-11-7 M Richards,
202	0-0	DANCENS RANGER SO Mass 5 William 5-11-5 Gazy Lyons -
203		FRED LETTREY & Tymes 5-11-5
204	200	GENERAL JACKE 14 J School 6-11-5 P Hide 82
205	1	GRACEFELD 79 (F) N Chance 6-11-6 R Johnson (3) -
205		MISTEY STAR R Sample & 11-5 Mr J Reds -
207	0	KIDMARI KING 54 A Carral 6-11-5
208	P0-	LOCH GARBARI 378 F Murphy 6-11-5 P Carbony -
209		MRUSIC MASTER C Eperan 6-11-5
210	Ð	SHALEK 54 0 Scenario 6-11-5 S O'Doonel (7) -
211	9/0	SELVER SLINAL 14 H OTHER 7-11-5 Jacqui Other -
212	D:10	WOODYOU 59 F Joedan 6-11-5 J Lodder —
213	Ð	COOL 1404DY 36 9 Proce 5-11-0 P 1404,000(14)
214	0-P	LASY HIGH SHEPRET 39 T Forstor 6-11-0 A Thomston —
715		SOME EXPRESS J Bestey 8-11-0 M Bostey
215	DOPP	THE COVERTRY PLYER 65 IS Smith 7-11-0 IN IN ROOSE -
217	240	GOLDRYYM 35 Bob Jones 4-10-7 C Linuxilyn 97
7.2 5	-	d, 4-1 Music Master, 5-1 General Jacke. 5-1 Fred Jeffrey, 8-1 Ween
		ten 19-1 ottes.
40.5	- 52	and the orace

1.50 CLAUDE BANKS 78TH BIRTHDAY NOVICES

때	SE (E3,223: 2m	110yo)	(8)			
313 313	54-1/ -377	FIERCE 13 (I ANOTHER VI BARTON SAI	BUTLERE 47 (TA 19 (S)	(S) F Musphy S Brookshaw	7-11-4 7-11-4	J (Salbeny	5
305 306	P/P 102F	CHAPPLICES COPPER CAN HAMMAN S HIGHT FAMO	LE 16 C S AM 22 (6)	aada 9-11-4 A Yesaali 6-11		M Ranger	8
5-4 9	දුප 🕻	MIGHT FAND SUPER COM Car. 7-2 Facos Obscorp.;	9.2 Head				
		· Constant in					_

2.20 YELLING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(52,992: 2m 110yd) (15)
471 4-49 LORD WELLINGTON 6.1 January 5-11-10
40C -623 KNGS 60LD 22 Mas), Records 6-11-6 M Fichards 95
402 O-33 BOMENOS RENG 9 O Greaton 7-11-8 M Breaton 🖺
404 P4P4 BIETSCHHICRN BARD 7 D Gastello 6-11-4 M Dwynr 92
405 FIE BORD AMMISSIAENT 13 W Curnington 6-11-3 N South 88
406 - FZ BASSEMHALLY 12 May P Sy 6-11-3 R Madey 98
407 15-1 Mary O'THE FIAGS 77 (D.F. Mrs. D.Haese 7-11-0 G Hogan (S) 92
478 06-6 JACK LEADER 67 May 2007 5-10-18
409 G-60 WHSSPERBIS COURT 22 A Turnell 6-10-13 G Croce (7) 93
410 0236 VALISKY 12F 9 Lee 6-10-12 P McLoopin 93
-11 1265 CAPTAN MARKENLATE 12F D Them 7-10-6 5 McNet 92
C12 0523 VHDQE WORDER 52 M Brzestow 6-10-6 P Holey 93
473 1P GREEDWAY LASTY 57 (D.G.) Libra A Embancos 4-10-5 J Ryen 88
414 PDD FEISTY 905S 16 N Treston-Comes 4-10-0 C Lieucitys -
415 6PO LANE 12 M Bacocksoph 4-13-0

9-2 King's Colo, S-1 Desirect Ring, Mild CTEs Rings, 7-1 Whose Wonder, 8-1 Betschinara Black, 16-1 sord Williampion, Jack Leader, 12-1 others.

2.50 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Outline: £4,170: 3m) (13)

		TOTAL ITE SAME OF SALAS LANGUAGES 1-1:-0 1 AND SALAS SALAS
302	4-1F	DO RIGHTLY 62 (S) M Bradshott 7-11-3
503	ᅄ	HEBREDEAN 24 (6.5) D Nicholson 9-11-3 R Johnson (3) BS
504	-45U	CLUTE A MAN 8 (F,S) W Jeaks 8-11-0
		DO BE HAVE 12 (G) Mrs J Pliman 8-10-10 W Ministra
		PLOTATION 16 John Sery 9-10-10 Lawrence _
507	4742	GO BALLISTIC 12 (6,8) J O'Shea 7-10-10 A Dobbin
		MAJORS LEGACY & T Forsier 7-10-10 A Thornton -
		MUPDOWN BOY 22 F) N Chance 7-10-10 D Ballagher -
		PALM COURT 21 (S) Mrs I, Williamson 8-10-10 S Michell 67
		PRIORY PIPER 7 J Pattering 7-10-10 W Worthlegton. 50
		SUVLA BAY 236 (G) O Brensen 8-10-10 M Brensen
513	P-34	SEDGE WARBLER 20 Mrs P Robeson 9-10-5 M Richards 80
2-1 6	in Rubb	estic, 11-4 Act The Way, 3-1 Hebridson, 7-1 Do Rightly, 12-1 Do Bo
Home	Series	Wartler, 20-1 others.
		meur, ar · rapa
_		

3.20 SAPLEY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP

601	1114	CAN CAN CHARLE 40 (SF.F.S) J Peace 6-12-0 L Aspell 89
602		ERZADJAN 675 (6) Mrs M Receivy 5-11-9 6 Lee (3) -
F03		JOHNS THE BOY 75 (6,5) N Mason 18-11-8. S Hawarth (7) 93
804		FLY BY MORTH 19 (6,5) D Michelson 8-11-6. X Alegony (10) 94
805		NORTHERN SOURCE 20 (E.S.) J. Jellerson 8-11-5 M. Newton (7) 93
606		DEVOCENT PROVCESS 645 (D.F.G.S) A James 9-11-0
uqu	-	G Tomes —
<i>807</i>	4505	PLATO'S REPUBLIC 47 (C.P) J Jenking 5-10-13 S Paix (3) 90
606	1544	PETTAUGH 10 (F) & Hobbard 8-10-12
609		DEPRING BREDGE 14 (D.S) Mrs S. Johnson 6-10-12 R. Johnson 90
		CAMBO 8 (D.G.S) M Banks 10-10-12 (Geo L Aspell 98
		MORE OF IT 10 (6,5) M Roberts 11-10-10 B Fertion
612	-430	ALASKAN HER 14 (6,5) A Streeter 5-10-9 A Larrach 🔞
		RSKG CORSTTS 10 M Roberts 8-10-9 D Flenegen (4) -
		LEESWOOD 8 (V.F.S) R Lee 8-10-0 P McLonglin 95
		CAPTAIN COE 14 8 Curts 6-10-0 B Crosse (4) 93
616	5-03	LOFTY DEED 20 (S) W Musson 6-10-0 E Husband 90
0.2 (-	5-1 Fly By Horth, 6-1 Johns The Boy, 7-1 Can Can Charlie, 8-1
rabi	ᇠᄲ	stan Heir, 10-1 Denno Bridge, 12-1 pihars.

3.50 MARCH HANDICAP CHASE

1	54-	žm 110yd) (7) Sure Metal 448 (0, Rejonus 83 (v,d,s)	F.G.S) D McCain 1	3-12-0 _ D McC	Sin ,
3 4 5	1798 1911- 1911	EEZ-ANNAY 36 (D.F.G) Maami Splash 313 (Wylam 8 (F.G.S) J G	7 Forster 7-11-3. D.G.S.J S Earle 9-1 Rord 9-10-1	<i>J.R Kavana</i> 1-1 C Mau P H	gh de 9 de
7 - ⊶4 £e	PP4 Dines	PEGMARBIÈ 42 (D.S) VOOKA FIZZ 44 (F.S) 3-1 Mismi Spiesi, 9	R Rome 11-10-0	D O'Sullis	(2)
CIPIE I	rane, 1	6-1 Vodka Fizz			

 $4.20\,$ Huntingdon maiden open national Hunt Flat race (#2,068: 2m 110yd) (22) 0- BOXEROVE MAN 320 J Ctd 6-11-5... 32 BRANLEY MAY 20 R WIREINS 6-11-5

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3	4	FERRERS 35 Mrs P Sty 5-11-5
4		FIRST INSTANCE D Gressell 6-11-5 J Railton
5		PLYBIS FEDELER 35 M Retherts 5-11-5 & Hogan (3)
6	2-	GOVERNOR DAMEL 304 J 0"Stee 5-11-5 \$ 0mbly (7)
7	_	MILLERSFORD N Gasalae 5-11-5 F Cooper (7)
8		RATHKEAL M Heaton-Elle 5-11-5 D Gallagher
š		ROYAL RAVEN J Gelord 5-11-5 P Hide
10		SIR DANTE 44 R Romo 5-11-5
11	-	SMART LORD 54 J Bosley 5-11-5
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12	9	THE TOISEACH 47 (BF) J Fastisme 5-11-5 W Marston
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15	ē	MESP 40 J O'Shea 5-11-0 A Dobbin
16	ň	AYDISURI 21 6 Bracery 4-10-7 K Gaelle (3)
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iš		REPEAT OFFER P Candell 4-10-7
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9		STARCHY'S CLUEST T Jones 4-10-7 J R Kavenegh
30		SWYNFORD PRIDE J Boltomley 4-10-7 D Byrne
21		TANGO MAN R Price 4-10-7 P Carterry
,		SHADY BANA F Jordan 4-10-2
_	_	and the Court Court Court Court Court Court Court
Ba	ntey	May, 5-1 Governor Dassell, 5-1 Royal Raxon, 8-1 Sir Danie, Bosgro
n, 10	ыk	erers. Computerand Lady, 12-1 citiens
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COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: J. Jefferson, 4 winners from 10 numers, 46.0%; D. Candollo, 9 from 29, 31.0%; D. Nicholson, 15 from 52, 28.8%; J. Piarros, 6 from 24, 25.0%; Mrs. J. Phiraca, 9 from 37, 24.3%, Mrs. Mis. Mismatey, 8 from 23, 24.2%; R. Lee, 3 from 13, 23.1%; N. Henderson, 7 from 33, 21.2%. JONEYS: P Hide, 12 vaneers born 48 rides, 25.0%, A Thornton, 5 horn 20, 25.0%, W Marston, 9 from 40, 22.5%, D Gallagher, 7 from 37, 18.9%, J Lodder, 5 from 27, 18.9%, J Ryan, 7 from 39, 17.9%; J Railton, 7 from 45, 15.6%.

Peter Beaumont, his trainer, ready to run at Leopardstown on Sunday week.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST 1.40 THATCHER LIMITED STAKES (£2.837: 1m 4f) (14 runners)

1.40 Good So Fa. 2.10 Spencer's Revenge. 2.40 Chemoast. 3.10 Rawi. 3.40 Perilous Plight. 4.10

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1	50-1	CARROLLS MARC 7 (CD.F.5) C Murray 8-9-4 J Wester
2	-441	ROYAL CIRCUS 5 (CD).F.(3) P Webber 7-9-4 F Lynch (7
3	000-	KENTAVRUS WAY 58J (C,G) A Moore 5-9-2. Candy Moors
4	0.00	MEDIA MESSENGER 13 (S) N Litimotes 7-9-2 J Branning (7)
3		ROYAL PROT 12 W Main 7-9-2 Josen-Please Lopez
Ē	án.e	SASSMER 7 (B,G) P Kellowy 6-9-2 A Clar
7	D.RE	THUNDEROUS 7 (8) J Bridger 5-9-2 J Ordin
å	nns.	FAIR ATTRACTION 193 J Today 4-8-12
9	04.0	6000 SO FA 12 (V,C,G) C Allen 4-8-12
10	200	SEE YOU AGAIN 121 M Britage 4-8-12 R Cochran
11	10-0	DOMEA 17 (V.D.G) Ji. Humb 7-8-11
	354	HELL FARM DANCER 44 (D.F) W Bestourse 5-8-11 (3 Guilles &
13	(M)	JADY'S DREAM 457 B Palling 5-8-11 S D Williams
14	630-	BIOLESS FANTASY 41 C Cyaer 4-8-7 J Stack (3)
4-1 Ro	eal Can	as, 9-2 Hill Farm Dancer, 6-1 Carcolls Marc, 7-1 Good So Fa, i
Enclos	Fanta	ry, See You Agein, 10-1 Sessiver, 12-1 others
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Z.7U GLADSTONE CLAIMING STAKES

)£3,118: 1m) (8)	
1 11-2 MR NEVERMAND 7 (20,F,6) G L Moore 6-9-5 A Leisman 2 32-0 SECOND COLOURS IS (2,D,F,6) Ms Nivesby 6-3-3 Fort 3 1-13 SPONGER'S REVENUE 10 (20,DF,F,6) M Byn 7-8-13 G Band 4 26-3 FRESH FRUT DALY 21 P Releasy 4-3-12 G Adamson 5 000- WHITE HEAT 108 W G M Luner 4-3-12 C Adamson 5 5-0 THORNY BISHOP 14 (B,C,6) 1 Striper 5-8-3 J Color 7 38-0 BURNT SERION 16 (V,D,F) J Moore 4-4-1 M Baild 8 9-66 OFF THE ARE RVJOLGS B Upweller 5-8-0 N Carl	
1-1 Spenson's Rosenge, 9-4 Mr Movembied, 4-1 Fresh Frust Dady, 9-2 Schoons, 12-1 OR The Air, 20-1 Based Sizenz. COURSE SPECIALISTS	

PROPRIES PRIMED | 173 Lord Huntingdon 5-8-13 | 8 40-3 LUCKY TUCKY 17 (6) J Jenious 5-8-13 | Almee Cook (7) 1 9 3-20 REAL MACROD 3 (V.5.5) 6 Enright 5-8-5 | M Adoms 10 10 152 LADY SABIMA 117 (D.5) W Misson 6-8-5 | P McCabe (3) 5 11 0-56 SCENT OF POWER 10 (7) N Babbage 8-8-4 | F Richard (3) 12 12 00-0 ZIMO RIVER 7 A Moore 4-8-1 | M Fention 2 13 00-0 HURZA STORY 16 (D.5) N Librarden 4-7-10 J Brambill (7) 11 2 Laby Sabins 9-2 Total Bach 5-1 American Description 7-2 Lady Sabino, 9-2 Total Rech, 5-1 Amesiane Power, 6-1 Lacky Tucky, 8-1 Real Madrid, Ultimate Wornfor, 10-1 Zuno Fiyer, 12-1 others Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 1.40 Donia, Good So Fa. WINCANTON: 1 30 Huish Cross, Zingibar. 4.00 Billy Barter. FIRSULTS FROM MESTERDAYS THREE MEETINGS

Wolverhampton Folkestone

Going: good (chase course); good to soft (hurdes)

(nurdies)
1.20 (2m 1f 110yd hdie) 1, Miroswald (S. Ryen, 8-4 tay); 2, Mead Court (33-1); 3, Natrawali (50-1). 19 ran MR: Northam Ningdom, 20), 2f. R. Alcehurst, 10-6: 62.30; 61.10, 617.20, 69.80. DF: 658.80 Trio: not won (pool of 6/67/60 carried form) 10-6: 62.30; 61.10, 617.20, 61.10, 617.20, 618.80 Trio: not won (pool of 6/67/60 carried form) 10-6: 62.55; 13. 250.13. 1.50 (3m 2i ch) 1, Ubu Val (A S Smith, 11-8 lav, Richard Evens's nap); 2, Ocean Leader (7-2); 3, Ojonnyo (33-1), 13 ran, 151, 111, W Beihell, Tote: £1.90; £1.00, £1.90, £12.90. DF: £8.50. Tito: £73.60. CSF: £6.74.

CSF: 26 74.
2.20 (2m St 110yd hole) 1, North
Bernrister (A P McCoy, 8-1); 2, Damosda
(4-1 tax); 3, Its Grand (5-1); 4, Celto Lillay
(33-1), 17 nan, Nk, 12, T McGovern, Tote
13.70; 25-50; 27 0, 51.40, 910.80 DF:
271.70 Trio: £133.30, CSF, £43.50.
Tricest: £172.49 No bid.

Incess: £1/2.49 No bid.
2.50 (2m 1/ 110yd hdie) 1, Haswitsome Glen (B Ferston, 5-1); 2, Arctic Lite (9-2), 3, Fleur De Tal (15-2) Brownsde Bng 4-1 lav (pu), 12 ren. 3, 91 Mrs M Long, Tota: £7.30; 22.50, £3.20, £2.20, DF: £15.60 Tho: £67.20 CSF: £28.55. Tricast: £161 10. E161 10.

3.20 (2m ch) 1, Early Drinker (J A McCarthy, 6-4 lav.), 2, Drumculler (14-1), 3, Predious Wonder (40-1) 16 ran 12.
30. O Shewwood. Tote. £2.20. £1

223.46.
3.50 (2m of 110yd holle) 1. Harvest View (C Bradley, 13-2); 2. Indian Summit (9-2).
3. Wheat's The Jobes (10-1) Dark Nightingels 11-4 fee (pu) 11 ran. NR: Ply in Amber. NJ, 10. C Brooks. Toter 510 30. 53.0, 51.10. 52.80. DF 528-90. Trics 572.10. CSP 555 46. Tricsast. 5271 17 4.20 (2m St ch) 1, Meestro Peul (Mr P O'Keefle, 20-1); 2, Phoman Fun (25-1), 3, Opel's Tenspot (16-1); 4, Cool Character (12-1), Lc Chat Not-41 (4av ff) 16 ran NR: Tricksome, Nk, 15i J Gifford, Tole

E26 80; £7.10, £3.70, £4.00, £2.90, DF: £169.50, Trio not won (pool of £342.74 carried forward to 3.20 at Hurstingdon today), CSF: £410.74, Tricast: £7,181.97 Jackpot: £87,215.10.
Placapot: £326.20. Quadpot: £36.90. Sedgefield Going: good to lim, good in places

Going: good to firm, good in please
1.10 (2m 11 110yd hale) 1, Baihermach (1, Wher, 2-1); 2, Weish Mill (8-11 fay); 3, General Jimbo (25-1), 13 ran, NR: Highland Way, Nk, 151, M H Essetty, Tole; 23.50; £1.10, £1.30, £18.70 DF: 170 Trio £18.20, CSF £4.24, 1.40 (2m 11 110yd hale); 1. Orchidarma (M Dwyer, 9-1); 2, Wild Rose Of York (5-1); 3, Yinfage Taithinger (5-2 lav); 4, Thorras Rend (7-1), 17 ran NR: Auribe Loma, 31, 7, J Oulem, Tote, £16.30, £2.40, £1.80, £1.71, £180 DF: £37.40, Tho: £31.60, CSF £10, £1.60, £1.71, £1.80 DF: £37.40, Tho: £31.60, CSF £10, £1.70, £1.70 DF: £3.50 Trio, £4.50, CSF £5.30, £3.40, £1.10, £4.70 DF: £3.50 Trio, £4.50, CSF £5.30, £3.40, £1.10, £4.70 DF: £3.50 Trio, £4.50, CSF £5.30, £3.40, £1.10, £4.70 DF: £2.50 Trio, £4.50, £1.50 Iose: 12.80; \$1.40; \$1.20. \$1.30. \$P: 16.47; Trot: 52.70 \$25: \$210. \$B: 3.10 (2m 11 ch) 1, Treeldder (R Garrity, 7-1); 2, Doxford Hut (8-1); 3, Kanndabil (12-1); Brier's Delight 4-1 [r-law, 12 ran, 8, 4]. M W Easterby Tote: £9.00; \$3.00, \$2.20, £2.90. \$D: \$4.120. Trot: \$145.10. \$100, \$1.40. \$1.40. \$100, \$1.40. \$1.40. \$1.40. \$100, \$1.40. \$100, \$1.40. \$100, \$1.40. \$100, \$1.40. \$1.4

200 (8) 1. Farmost (C Nutier, 4-7 lav); 2. Durmiter Golf Time (3-1); 3. Coasiguards. Hero (50-1): 13 ran (w), 61. M Prescott. Tota (2): 80; 51.10; 51.30, 553.20. DF: 52.30. Tric: £103.30 (part won, pool of 57.28 carried bowerd to 3.20 at Hunting-don today). CSF: £3.37.

our today). LSP: 123 47. 2.30 (7t) 1. Rembo Weltzer (Alex Greaves, 5-1): 2. Berga (5-4 lav): 3. Everset (3-1): 11 ren. Nt. 184. D Nichols. Tota: \$10.50; £4.10, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £8.30 Tric: £8.80. CSF: £13.55. CSF: £13.55.
3.00 (1m 1/1 79/d) 1, Field OI Vision (J. Weaver, 8-1), 2, Maple Bay (5-2 law); 3. Kintwyn (8-2), 12 ran NR: Desert Power Hd, 2kl, M Johnston, Tote: £10 70; £3.20.
190. £3.30. DF: £38.90. Tric: £31.30.
CSF: £31.50. Tricsst: £102.94. ET 90. £3 30. DP: £38 90. Ind: £31 30. CSF. £31 90. Trices £1 €102.P4 9.30 (1m 100)vd) 1. Chima Casile (J. Fortune, 9-4, Thunderar's nap); 2. The aire Magic (7-1); 3. Lady Digray (10-1). Domoor 7-4 law. 9 ran. 1 Mi, 1 Mi. P. Haslam Tote: £3.00. £1.40, £3.20. £3.50 DF: £16.00 Tric £24,60 CSF: £20.03 Tricest* £133.07. 4.00 (1m 61 160)vd) 1, Stevie's Wonder (G. Bardwell, Evens lav); 2, Fraise Du Roi (8-1); 3, E Mado (7-2) 11 ran. NR: Casile Secret Hd, 201 M Ryan Tote £2.10. £120, £2.20. £1.90 DF: £12.70. Tric £4.80. CSF: £11 78 No bid 4.30 (5f) 1, Chackwell Hall (C Tesque, 5-1), 2, King Rambo (10-1); 3, Festherstone Larre (8-1). Southern Dominion 7-2 law 11 ran. 2, 144.5 Souring Tote: £4.40, £2.10. £56.40, £2.30. DF: £54.40, Tric £73.00. CSF: £58.06. Tricest £384.36. Piscopott £18.50. Quadpott £14.10.

Piacepot: £18.50. Quadpot: £14.10. ☐ Addington Boy, trained by Gordon Richards, was well supported to 6-1 (from 8-1) with Ladorokes yesterday for the Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster on Saturday. Turning Trix remains the 100-30

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168 0891 168+ W'CANTON | 01 | 201 | 301 HUNTTON | 102 | 202 | 302 UNGFIELD | 103 | 203 | 303 UNGFIELD | 103 | 220 | 320

Jodami in shape for Ireland

JODAMI is in excellent shape for his attempt to land the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup for the fourth year in a row. confirmed that the gelding is

winning at Kelso in November. A planned return at Wetherby had to be scrapped because of a throat problem. But Beaumont said yester-day: "Jodarni is in good order and he's over all his problems. He worked this morning with The 1993 Gold Cup winner Mark Dwyer and schooled has been off the course since over six fences."

RADIO CHOICE

Real runners deserve chance of lottery gold

inspiration of the gold medal hopeful these days is more likely to be Scratchcards of Fire, "We are going for gold," declared the National Heritage Secretary. Virginia Bottomley, this week. We want to help the stars of the future." She was announcing that National Lottery grants worth thousands of pounds could be given to help competitors to train, coach and compete in all sports - from the youngster of promise to the champion in the

Olympics. There is no It is a fine idea, for though sport has benebetter fited by more than £170 million in the first year example of an of the lotters, the grants have been spent unsung sport' on building or improving facilities.

Now grants can be paid directly to individuals to help them to fulfil their notential. But the real test for the fairy godmothers who hand out the lottery gold (in this case the sports) councils) will be to make sure it goes. to the deserving Cinderellas and not the Ugly Sisters already bloated with

sponsorship and appearance money. Real deserving cases should not be hard to find, for they are the true heirs of the now seemingly timewarreed amateur ethos that so prececupied the founding fathers of much

the PGA European Tour could

open its proceedings this year, a tropical island near the

Equator where inflation is

running at 1.5 per cent annual-

ly is about the oddest. Singa-

pore, 6.500 miles from

London, is not the first place

that comes to mind when one

Golf, however, is a business and as Johnnie Walker pumps

Ell million annually into golf.

making it the biggest sponsor

in Europe and probably the

world, it is appropriate that

one of its tournaments starts

the year - at the Tanah

Merah Country Club here this

morning. Greg Norman. Fred Cou-

ples, the defending champion, and Ernie Els have all been

lured to this island that is

smaller in size than Greater

London - and it has taken

more than a couple of bottles

of Black Label to do that, you

can be sure. No sooner had

Norman arrived than he went

down with a chest infection

It is fun being a golf

supporter these days. The four

annual major championships

remain compelling watching.

each offering an individual

challenge for the professionals

as they have done every year

and was said to be an extreme-

ly doubtful starter.

thinks of Europe.

of British sport. In what was really a class division, sport was carved up a century and more ago into gentlemen and players. These days, the heirs to the lofty idealism of the amateur tradition are left to get by as best they

Mostly that means relying on the biggest army of hidden sponsors in the land — their families — who often provide money, equipment transport and sometimes even coaching up to international level.

There is no better example of an unsung. under-resourced and literally grassroots sport than cross-country running. This Salurday afternoon. thousands of real runners (not your lycraclad poseurs who marathon only for the

cameras) will flog their way through mud, grass, woods and ditches in cross-country's area championships. The cross-country season has been

ficreely competitive feature of British athletics for more than a century and traditionally helps to account for our strength in depth at distance running. The list of British record-holders and medal-winners who have shivered their winters running on grim cross-country courses is legendary. Walter George. Sydney Wooderson, Gordon Pirie.

Business trip east

marks start of

European venture



Ron Hill, Brendan Foster, Dave Bedford - even Cram. Coe and Ovett - all knew that you could reap success in the summer only if you had put in the hard work in the

This tough sport evolved in the early years of the 19th century when it was known in the public schools as "hare and hounds" — a paperchase, with the human hares laying a trail of paper for the runners behind to follow. The father of cross-country running at club level was Walter Ryc. a hardliner, even among his fellow Victorians on the subject of gentlemen amateurs - he saw no place for working men or gambling in his sport. He organised a run in 1867 which led to the founding of the world's first club, the Thames Hare and Hounds, and the new sport took

Jan 25-28.

Feb 1-4:

The climax of this season will take place on March 23 at the world crosscountry championships in Cape Town, and despite a lamentable lack of resources there is a real chance that the British teams can get among the medals. Since Dave Clarke, one of the finest cross-country runners produced by Britain, took over as men's team manager a little more than a year ago, the British squad has found the spirit to take on the world. Clarke has confidence and enthusiasm.

What he and his squad do not have is money. "Big sums aren't necessarily going to make our athletes run any better," he says, "but a little would go a very long way and buy a lot recognition and goodwill. What we really need funding for

is a British endurance squad — to get the most out of our great distance running tradition."

Clarke is trying to match his team against the best in the world with little more than a token budget. He has the problem of asking some of his best prospects to pass up paid appearances in favour of running for their country virtually at their own expense. "We're asking some athletes, particularly the young ones, to run for Britain with an overdraft hanging round their necks," he says.

THE EUROPEAN CARD

Johnnie Walker Classic, Singapore

"We can beat plenty in Cape Town, including the top European teams, if we can get our best runners to turn out there. We have men like Paul Evans and Rob Denmark - and we need them. If our distance runners can get a taste of success in South Africa, we can follow it with success in the summer at the Olympics. If the public want to see our distance men and women winning medals on the track, they must realise that the runners need some encouragement to do the groundwork through the British

winter.

The British squad has the spirit to take on the world'

ional Lottery awards, some badly-needed support could be channelled into this Cinderella sport. What Walter Rye would have made of such grants we can only guess. In 1876, the press was full of rumours

Thanks to the

changes in the Nat-

that Rye was about to resign because there had been some gambling over cards in the dressing-room of the Thames Hare and Hounds. The row passed and he did not quit

after all, so perhaps a century and more later he would have smiled at lottery money coming to the aid of his beloved paper-chasing. But wouldn't bet on it.

FOR 1996

JOHN BRYANT

Murder train back on rails

Cinema 100: Strangers on a Train. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Too many literary cooks threatened to spoil Hitchcock's broth in 1951. In the event, the flavour of Strangers on a Train was to almost everybody's taste. Hitchcock himself contributed to the screenplay, though the credits named only Whitfield Cook as adapter of Patricia Highsmith's thriller, and the great Raymond Chandler and Czenzi Ormonde as screenwriters. Like his Hollywood predecessors, Craig Warner has used this tale of a double murder plot as his inspiration, but nobody who knows anything about Warner's remarkable inventive powers as a radio dramatist will expect his adaptation of Strangers on a Train to be slavishly faithful to Highsmith.

The American Wife. Radio 4, 11.00pm. Except for the odd flashback, Richard Nelson's short play all takes Except for the odd flashback, Richard Nelson's short play all takes place on Thanksgiving Day. The irony is that the eponymous spouse (Zoë Wanamaker) has precious little to thank anybody for. An American in London, married to an Englishman (Anton Lesser), she hates England, its people, and their obsessions, especially their gardens and their holiday plans. She despises the husband who she is convinced is having an adulterous fling; and she is scared that her well-advanced pregnancy is going to end badly. All this comes out in her unspoken thoughts as she detachedly serves a Thanksgiving Day dinner. Nelson has written a subtle, twin-track play. Why twin-track? On this, my lips are scaled. On this, my lips are scaled.

RADIO 1

PB Stereo 4.00am Cive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans9.00 Simon Mayo12.00 Lisa FAnson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm News-beat and at 1.15 The Net 2.08 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodler, incl 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, 6.15 the Net 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Collars and Maconie's Hill Parade 10.00 Mark Radditte Midnight Clare Sturgess, incl 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, and at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Ammy Young 2.00pm Debbee Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 For Better of for Worse 7.30 David Akan 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Latino Nuevo10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex tester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5,05am Moming Reports 6,00 The Breaklast Programme 8,35 The Maga-zine, not 10,35 Euronews 11,30 Gut Reaction 12,00 Midday with Mair, not 12,34pm Moneyotheck with Katle Derham 1,15 Entertainmen News 2,05 Ruscoe on Five, incl. at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nation-wide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Cricket's World Cup8.05 Women on Top 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 Women and Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05em Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

6.00em Sandy Wart 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raebum 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Tumer 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00em Ian Colms

TALK RADIO

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday
5.30 Europe 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe
7.00 News 7.15 Frenchman's Greek
7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10
Words of Faith 8.15 Composer 8.45
Good Books 9.00 News in German 9.15
Sport9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsdesk
10.30 BBC English 10.45 Frenchman's
Creek 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Man,
Machine and Music 12.00 News
12.05pm World Business 12.15 Bithan
Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 News
12.05pm World Business 12.15 Bithan
Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 News
12.05pm World 3.30 Network UF. 4.00
News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in
German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30
Business Report 5.45 Sport6.00
Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00
News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Worlds of Feith Newsdesk 6.30 News in Garman 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshart 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Mandain 10.00 Newslash 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Network UK 11.45 Health Mariers Midnight Newsdask 12.30am On the Move 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Sureving the 20th Century 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsdask 2.30 Drama The Vaciliations of Poppy Carew 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Faith 4.00 Newsdask 4.30 Europe Today

WORLD SERVICE

CLASSIC FM

9.00 Henry Ketty 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Travel 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ in Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mart. Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor), Corelli (Concerto Grosso in F): Bach (English Sulle No 3 in G minor); Mackenzie ninoenan i sympronic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber), Nielsen (Clarinel Concerto David Campbell), Holst (A Somerset Rhapsody). Vaughan Williams (Symphony No. 3) (Incidental music, Conolanus); 8.05 J P. Jones (Al son de los arroyuelos, Amores pasados), Elgar (Sea

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambeccini. Scarletti Sonatas in D: Trevor Pinnock harosichord): Mozart

(Oboe Concerto in C); Smetana (String Quartet No 1, From My Life) 10.00 Musical Encounters Brahms, orch Dvoiák (Hungarian Dances, No 21 in É minor, No 19 in B minor); Clara Schumann (Piano Trio Clara Scrumann (Hano Ino in G minor), Mahler (Velorine Müh: Rheinlegendchen; Der Tamboursg sell, Des Kraben Wunderhom); 10.50 Morton Gould (Derivations), 11.05 Gorecki (Totus huis); Schumann ed Mahler

Schumann, ed Mable

Schumarin, ed Mahler (Symphony No 3 in Elat, Rhenish)

12.00 Composer of the Week. Prokofiev (Pine Trees; Without a Blush, Pushkin Songs; Cantata, Alexander Nevsky)

1.00pm City of London Sinfonia under Barry Tuckwell, Holst (Brook Green Suite); Goehr (Fugue on the Notes of the Fourth Psalm), Britlen (Serenade for Jenor, horn and strings) (f)

strings) (f)

2.00 Schools Radro Showcase

2.05 in the News 2.25

Something to Think About

2.40 Music Workshop

3.00 The Road to Toledo. The journey of Philip the Fair from Brussels to Toledo (2/4) 3.30 Ulster Orchestra performs Hindemath (Symphonic

5.00 The Music Machine; Rondo

performances from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Martyn Brabbins and the pianist Kalhryn Stoff 7.30 BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortetier, Pet Maxwell Davies Ravel (Rapsodie espagnole): Marwell Davies (Symphony No 5: Cross Lane Fair): Beethoven (Symphony No 7

9.10 The Maxton Festival. Hugh Walters presents another report from Maxton Market

9.30 Fauré and the French Connection Kathryn Slott piano, in a recital broadcast last year to mark the 150th armwersary of Fauré's brith in 10.45 Night Waves Includes reviews of the William Morris exhibition at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester, and Opera North in Alan Jay

Lemer's musical, Love Life 11.30-12.30am The BBC 11.30-12.30am The BBC
Orchestras Geolfrey
Baskerville introduces the
BBC Scothish Symphony
Orchestra under Martyn
Brabbins, Works by Ravel,
Lyell Cresswell and Glazunov
1.00-2.00 Night School Together
Stories 1.30 Music for Dance

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by the Johnnie Walker Classic since the US PGA became a legitimate major championship 40 years ago. They have not been devalued by the rise of extravaganzas with huge financial purses at either end of the season. The Masters in April, the US Open in June, the Open a month later and the US PGA in August are as much the central features of the golfing year as spring.

John Hopkins in Singapore on

the gripping contest launched

summer, autumn and winter are of the calendar year. Good as that is, that is not all. These days, the rise in the standards of golf outside the United States means that it has become more of a worldwide game and competitions between teams from Europe and the United States are evenly matched instead of the one-sided affairs they used to be. In 1995, for example, the golf-watcher who supported Europe could have been sated by the excitement and diversity of what was on offer. There is every reason to expect 1996 to be almost as exciting. The Ryder Cup started the

levelling-up of standards between the two continents and

the thrilling affair at Oak Hill, Rochester, in September was possibly the best yet and arguably the sporting - not just the golfing — event of last year. The teeming rain did nothing to diminish the excitement of Great Britain and Ireland's victory in the Walker Cup the same month. That meant that these two trophies joined the Curtis Cup on this side of the Atlantic.

There is a pleasing symme-try to the golfing calendar at present one that is a lesson to other sports where one important event clashes with another and the end result is a lessening in importance of them all. The seemingly endless succession of strokeplay events among the professionals and leading amateurs are now punctuated by two matchplay events each year. Last year, it was the men who competed for the Ryder and Walker Cups. This year, it is the turn of the women - the amateurs of Great Britain and Ireland attempting to retain the Curtis Cup at Killarney in June and the women professionals from Europe hoping to regain the Solheim Cup at St

Pierre in September. Here and there are other pleasing events: the eccentric President's Putter, as dottily barmy as swimming in the Serpentine on Christmas Day: the Amateur Championship. this year to be held at Turnberry: the Halford Hewitt, that masterplete of organisation that takes piace each Easter and is regarded by its participants as being far. more important than that small invitational event in Augusta, Georgia, going en utthe same time, and the home internationals, as rousing a festival of amateur golf as

In April, some real amateur









Norman, left, who is a doubtful starter. Couples and Els have all been lured to Singapore

enthusiasts will gather to play 2 holes in one day at Littlestone - and, in 25 years so doing, only one man has falled to complete the four rounds "life easy enough," one of them said recently. You do two frounds/ before junch. Then you sit down and have a decent meal, a knifeand-fork job and a glass or two of wine. And then you do awo after lunch. I'm not saying it's a piece of cake, but nor am I saying it is that difficult.

WORD-WATCHING

Criscologic provider pusable to Akmi Val. 5. Man. 1 (2015) Entern SED SOW, Delivery up to entit date (CK). Tel: (10 oct.) 4773. (40). No modificands.

event, the Volvo Masters at Valderrama, Spain, on October 27, the travelling circus of

Yet just as the start of the PGA European Tour is conpistol for golf in Europe, so it is the professionals on this tour that demand the greatest attention. Between the start of the first event, the Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore today, and the end of the final

players will have hit millions You sleep quite well after all f golf balls and visited dozens of countries. Last year was dominated by

the week-by-week struggle between Sam Torrance and Col-Montgomerie, which became as gripping to watch as it must have been exhausting to play. That Montgomerie only won with his final stroke of the season in Europe indicates how close it all was. Would that this year will be as exciting.

SNOW REPORTS

WOND-WATCHING	
Answers from page 39 CHERRY BUAIS Su Under the command of Eard Cardigan sof the Charge of the Light	Depth Weather Gendmons Runs to (5pm) Loct L G Piste Office resort PC snow
Brigade fame, the 14th Hussar a were laudited at by the related the Army for their dignifilting pink, partialouts. The Times 11 April 1884 "The splendour of these magnificent light not extent, the shortness of their jackets the lightness of their packets the lightness of their cherry-advanced parts, all these were enerly unfit for war service."	ANDORRA Sertiou 70 170 pointer povider good cloud 46 2411 "Fabulous powder conditions aren 50cm clinew sincist AUSTRIA
SALTHORSE (a) Royal naval slang, or Jacks bear, for the long-passes dishydune sain beef in barrels — standard food for sales on Nelson's mary.	Obergurg: 35 75 fair coined fair cloud 3 8/1 (Pistos hard in windhickin areas thin tooks in places) Schlacming 20 40 fair crus: art cloud 0 4/1
LORD LOOK-ON (b) The sareason mekname for Dird Lucar, the Casairy Commander-during the Crimean War. A bit unduly really force Ragian, the Commander-in-Chief, and him sile desired his intention of keeping the	Soll good shing in most alleast show guns in usel. Soll 10 50 for heavy closed cloud -1 8/1 (Srushy conditions on cosh pictes) show needed). FRANCE
cavalry "in a handbox". Lucan, mough evenish, was constantly forbidden in charge into action, everywhen Region ordered him to instruct the misdirected and dispatient, charge of the Light Breade.	Alpeid Huez 70 229 good varied good fair 1 24/4 Exceptort stong on of but the (bases) pustes)
LIMBO	Leo Arco 35 170 fair varied fair fine 2 23,1 (Aldeo weather softening they want patches low down)
fat The boss of a shield of a plant, the no rection centre, if a round shield. Demosthenes, that passion to indirection, used such a shield at the	Avoriaz 80 120 good varied fair cloud 1 24/1 (Dusting of fresh show cottening pistes)
Banle of Crannon, circa 322FC.	La Plagne 60 140 fair valled worn fine () 24/1 (Most pisted improved with new show)
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1. Beb-! Facts: 2. G+ KaG, 3. Bub4 waters to 3; for bishop with an easy.	Tignes 75 135 good heav: good line 1 24/1 (Good suing on and off piste with fresh snow)
gain on material. Extra credit if you rejected 1. Rest triantance to meet 1	Validitisere 60 145 good sandd good sun 4 24/1 (Fresh powder in sheltered areas good skiing) (TAL)
WE ARD NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FRUE DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIN PRICE — OFFER EXTENDED TO PICLUDE EUROPE. HERE OFFW PED AND DID FOR ITEM — STERLING OR US SCHEOLES ONLY — IT IS IN 15 NO.	Cervinia 110 500 good powder good cloud -2 24/1 (Excellent skiing but peor visibility) SWITZERLAND
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Automatic College contain that of most and professional profession per mile for crossing and recommendation HELD backet. For IBM PEC and Agent RISC OS Participation in the Now and 19,99 cach.	Grindelwald 0 30 worn crusty closed aloud 4 7/1 (Certain pisted will good worn lay bare elsewhere)
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RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Brieling, incl weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Dav 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00 7.30 8.00 8.30 News 8.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

8.58 Weather News 9.05 Face the Facts. with John Wate (r)

9.30 First Person Plural: Feeling the Kicks. Last in the senes of audo daries. Three single mothers-to-be await the birth of their bethes 10.00-10.30 News; First Men In

the Moon (FM only). The second of a lour-part adaptation by Ice Dunlop of the novel by H G Wells With James Botam and Donald

James Sinden
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Scept'd Iste (LW only)
The story of Britain from the Romans to the 20th century 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Janni Murray Scrial Mother of Pearl by Mary Mornsey (6.12) 11.30 From Our Own

Correspondent 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm To Boldly Go Kevin Day chars the second of four sci-in quittes 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One with Nick

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Strangers on a Train

See Choice 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. with Daire Brehan Frieda Morrison dispels some of the myths attached to living in the

previews Channel 4's senes The Merchant of Venice 4.45 Short Story: From Marrakech, by Catherine Linstrum Read by Gareth Armstrong
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Airport, Comedy series

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidosc

(3/4) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Sons and Mothers Nick Baker explores the unea

mothers and their sons
Asia Gold Edward Sloutton
visits Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to see how the poor are beginning to benefit from economic reform Last in the

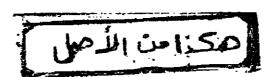
series 8.45 Aesthete's Foot. The 8.45 Aesthere's moor, the Scottish humored John McKay reminisces about his adolescence (3/6) 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lusing
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera, by Getnel Garcia Marquez. Read by Robert Powell (9/15) 11.00 Thirty Minute Theatre: The American Wife See Choice 11.30-12.00 Ad Lib (FM only) Behavi Behaviard like to

11.30-12.00 Ad Lib (FM only)
Robert Robinson talks to midwives (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Drowned World, by
J G Ballard (4/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 68.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 60.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6: LW 198: MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693. 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648: LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089.Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Mexcy. Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson



Confessions of the academically challenged

et us begin with a confes-sion. I have not watched the first round of University Challenge (BBC2) with anything approaching my usual dedication and before we go any further I had bener explain why. I cannot an-

swer the questions any more.

Over the past few weeks, every time I have dipped in for a quick starter for ten, Jeremy Paxman has asked the sort of question that sends me scurrying over to Des O'Connor on ITV. An almost audible sneer seems to follow:

Too tough for you, huh?" It is.

Now this would be a shaming enough admission for any graduate but it is doubly so for a television critic. For when University Challenge returned last year, sans Bamber and avec Jeremy, my how we all scoffed. Easy, peasy. lemon squeezy we all said. They don't make questions like they used to, we all said. And my wasn't it pitiful, we all said, how those

eager little undergraduate eyes lit up every time a question on pop music came along?

Last night it was my once eager, once undergraduate eyes that waited in vain for a nice question about the Sex Pistols or Spandau Ballet. It never came — the flame of academia, that had once burnt so brightly (well, I always thought so), flickered and went out.

Paxman was merciless. "The

play by Aeschylus entitled Seven Against Thebes is based on the story of which tragic hero?" Er . . . "Which aluminium oxide has the gem stone varieties sapphire and ruby, while its mixture with iron oxide and spinel are called emery? Um ... "Which king was buried in Worcester Cathedral after dying of dysentery?" I knew it. I knew it ... I didn't. Which book of the Bible follows Jeremiah and is an account of that prophet's complaint that God had rejected him and his people?" Lamentable, I

"I'll accept that," said Paxman. There were other rare moments

of encouragement as Middlesex University took on Selwyn College, Cambridge. "What does the symbol PH stand for on an Ordnance Survey man?" Now I definitely knew that. The woman reading English at Selwyn, who earlier had impressively known that Drambule was Gaelic for "pleasing drink", seemed confident too. She pressed her buzzer: "Phone?" Rather meanly, I cheered.

The result of this onerous first round is an egalitarian field that would gladden the heart of even Harriet Harman two colleges each from Oxford and Cambridge, three "new universities" (aka former polytechnics) and five other well-known establishments of assorted antiquity and brick colour. Middlesex against Selwyn was new against old and REVIEW



produced a thrilling contest that went right down to the gong -and just past it.

It fell to the woman reading

herbal medicine at Middlesex, who earlier had beaten the Cambridge biochemist to "cholesterol", to press the final buzzer. With the scores level, Paxman moved to the sudden death tie-break. "1.732 is to 3 decimal points ... " Buzz. "E," shouted the herbalist.

thought...before, in a dazzling moment of mathematical déjà vu, I realised she meant "e". Nothing to do with drugs, everything to do with natural logarithms - how clever. "Wrong," said Paxman, deducting five point for an incor-rect interruption and handing the game to Selwyn. And so it was. that for the square root of three the battle was lost. If I ever start getting the answers right again, I could grow to like this game.

The workings of the brain play a key role in Hetty Wainthropp Investigates (BBCl) and it is driving me mad. The cod brass band music I can take, the overacting I might be able to accept, but Hetty Wainthropp and her "little grey cells" — no way. Borrowing one fictional detective's catchphrase to raise the supposed credibility of another, and an infinitely inferior one to boot ... well, it's very annoying.

Technically this is an accomplished and good-looking production. Last night's episode, for instance, began with Robert Tronson stylishly setting the scene for what looked a promising tale of witchcraft and skulduggery. But you don't get sacrificial virgins or naked cavorting in Hetty Wainthropp, oh no. You get handbagged.

Tou get handbagged by the enormous performance that Patricia Routledge gives in the title role. It may have succeeded in consigning Hyacinth Bucket to history but it leaves the support-ing cast with a bleak choice: overact or disappear. Understandably, most choose the former, turning each episode into a succession of music-hall turns that makes me long for the delicate touch of the equally implausible but far more enjoyable Pie in the Sky. Hetty Wainthropp, who dis-

hold with despair: "Not for young or old." Well, maybe not, but after four episodes I'm coming close.
I began with a confession, so let

me finish with some advice. Just watch the first 20 minutes of Hollywood Men (ITV) and then switch over. For, after two episodes, a pattern has emerged - the first 20 minutes are meticulously assembled, highly entertaining. highly undernanding television fabulous. Then something happens - the pace slows, the stars fade and suddenly you find yourself considering, for the second week running, mutilations of the male organ. Last week it was penis enlargement, this week it was penis-ectomy and John Wayne Bobbirt, now carving out a new career as a porn star. Life is too short — but i expect some Beverly Hills plastic surgeon is working on that too.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (14019) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (29635632) 9.10 Kilroy (s) (2771293)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6424089) 10.05 Cen't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6918380) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (11854) 12.00 News (Ceefax) (6054361)

12.05pm Pabble Mill Special about the show A Little Night Music (9292767) 12.50 Regional News (13997922)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (48477) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (64066748) 1.50 The Flying Doctors (Ceelax) (s) (1124922) 2.35 This is Your Life (r)

(Ceetax) (s) (4210125) 3.05 Timekeepers (s) (5426477) 3.30 The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (7272800) 3.35 The Morph Files (s) (2764564) 3.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (r) (Ceelax) (s) (1733212) 4.10 Highlander (Ceelax) (s) (3811075) 4.35 The Realiy

Wild Show (Ceetax) (s) (9780477) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (4155699) 5.10 Grange Hill (Ceefax) (s) (7399090)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (344583) N.J.: 5.35 Inside Uister

6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (941)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (293) N.L. 6.30 Neighbours 6.57 Inside Uister News 7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (9516) 7.30 EastEnders. Pauline takes on the council, and Roy arranges to meet Frank(Ceetax) (s) (477)

8.00 The Vet. Out of the Past. Drama series about a Devon veterinary practice. With Suzanne Burden and Richard Hawley (Ceefax) (s) (964354)

8.50 Animal Hospital Heroes. Roll Hams remembers some of the heart-werming stories from past visits to the Harmsworth Hospital in London (Ceefax) (a) (701380) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional

news and weather (9361) 9.30 French and Saunders. Comedy sketches (Ceefax) (s) (46922)

10.00 Crimewatch UK. Presented by Nick Ross and Jill Dando (Ceefax) (s) (716106) 10,45 Question Time. With MPs Virginia Bottomley, Simon Hughes and Clare Short and Judge Stephen Turnim. (Ceetax) (536651) N.L.: 10.45 Spottight 11.15 Question Time 12.15am Crimewatch Update 12.25 Hunger for Faith 12.45 FILM: Cop for the Killing 2.15 Weather WALES: 10.45 The Slate (576019) 11.15 Question Time (533564) 12.15am Crimewatch Update (5744133) 12.25 Hunger for Faith (2770292) 12.45 Bowls (9962591) 1.25 News(4234846)

11.55 Hunger for Feith. The writer Rana Kabbani discovers the heart and soul of British Islam (1/4) (Ceetax) (s) (497699) 12.15 FiLM: Sound of Love (1978) with John Jarrett and Celia de Burgh. A dritter and a motor mechanic are drawn together by their experiences in a clinic for the deaf.

11.45 Crimewatch UK Update (Ceefax) (s)

Directed by John Power (7173317) 1.35 Weather (2802862)

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The numbers need to each TV programmie issing are Video
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6.00am Business and Work (96831)

7.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (6015767) 7.15 Lassie (r) (3139545) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (7113800) 8.05 Blue Peter (r). (Ceelax) (s) (5246816) 8.35 The Record (s) (9420651) 9.00 For the Love of it (6370361)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Science (4020816) 9.30 Lerrexpress (3174748) 9.45 Over the Moon (3162903) 10.00 Playdays (8917651) 10.25 Storytime (7175835) 10.45 Science Zone (4123212) 11.05 Space Ark (9246019) 11.15 Sex Education (3976598) 11.35 Landmerks (2440038) 12.00 Christianity (3942854) 12.15 Clementine (4355090) 12.30pm Working Lunch (51800) 1.00 Lifeschool (32796458) 1.25 Technology (28822309)

1.40 Numbertime (64071670) 2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fatries (r) (61257212) 2.05 Puppydog Tales (r)

(61256583) 2.10 The Andrew Nell Show (s) (5380800). WALES: 2.10-3.00 Bowls (5380800) 4.00-6.00 Bowls (7545)

3.00 News (Ceelax) Westminster (7183564) 3.55 News (Ceelax) (5149187) 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (106) 4.30 Ready Steady, Cook (s) (390) 5.00 The Oprah

Winfrey Show. (s) (7731564) 5.40 Still in Business. (140854) 5.55 My Village (728629)

6.00 Star Treic Deep Space Nine. (Ceefax) (s) (786922) 6.45 They Who Dare (s) 7,00 Waiting for God, Retirement home

cornedy (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8038) WALES: 7.00 Pound for Pound

7.30 First Sight: Back to Plague Us. How the health authorities in New York have managed to curb a large tuberculosis apidemic (449). NORTHERN IRELAND: 7.30 Now You're Talking 7.55 Our Roving Reporter, WALES: 7.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? EAST: 7.30 Matter of Fact; MIDLANDS: 7.30 Midlands Report: NORTH, NORTH EAST, NORTH WEST: 7.30 Close Up North; SOUTH: 7.30 Southern Eye: SOUTH WEST, WEST: 7.30 Close Up



Banking on Lord Spens (8.00pm)

8.00 My Brilliant Career. The banker Lord Spens talks about his career and his fight to clear his name in the Guinness affair (Ceetax) (s) (4458) 8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Motonworld. Australia (Ceelax) (s) (6293)

9.00 Traces of Guilt: Dead Witness (Ceefax) (s) (846090) 9.50 Potted Histories(Ceefax) (s) (399800) 10.00 Game On. Cornecty (r). (Ceefax) (59318)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceeiax) (418212) 11.15 European Figure Skating Char ships (382583) 11.55 Weather 12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (43442)

12,30am-6,00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE Survival: Stone Runner

ITV, 7.30pm Since the stone curlew chooses to nest in open country, exposed to danger from both man and fellow beasts, its decline is not

surprising. In the 1930s there were some 1,000 pairs nesting in Britain. Now there are barely 150. The good news is that the decline has been arrested and even slightly reversed Nobody has done more to ensure the breed's survival than Chris Knights, who is both a farmer, with 2,000 acres in Norfolk, and a distinguished wildlife cameraman. As a farmer he makes sure than any stone curlews on his land are protected as far as can be from tractors, foxes and sheep. As a film-maker he records the curlew's annual arrival in Britain from warmer climes, the cycle of mating and breeding and the autumn departure. His footage provides an engaging record of a rare species.

Traces of Guilt: Dead Witness BBC2, 9.00pm

The forensic science series moves to Guaternala, where the challenge for the experts is to uncover the truth about killings which took place 12 years before. The location is a small hillside village where more than 100 reople lie in mass graves. The official version is that they were victims of the civil war between the military Government and left-wing guerrillas. Surviving villagers allege genocide. Bones and bullets are all the team have to go on, as the project takes on the character of an archaeological dig. But bones can reveal how people died and bullets are a clue to the guns which fired them. Dr Clyde Snow, who leads the team, says that history is usually written by the victors. Here it is written by science, though the conclusions are not welcome to

Thief Takers TTV, 9.00pm

Television's newest police series has strong echoes of an old one and not just because Tom Clegg, who directs this episode of Thief Takers, performed the same function more than 20 years ago on the pilot for The Sweeney. Where The Sweeney was a John Dennis Waterman double act. Thief Takers has an ensemble cast but otherwise Yard's Flying Squad, a rough and cynical bunch whose behaviour is often little better than that of the villains they are chasing. Both shows, too, feature sex and violence. The opening plot links a prison escape, a security van hijack and a detective who is having an affair with a villain's wife. It has most of the The Sweeney ingredients except one: a sense of humour.

NYPD Blue Channel 4, 10,000m

The much-praised New York cop show returns for its third season, though for any British viewer new to the series there must be two warnings. One is to listen carefully to the dialogue, for it is not only economical but the words which do reach the screen are thrown away so quickly that it is easy to miss them. The second word of caution is that the dizzying camera pans, which the show seemingly cannot resist, are not restful on the eyes. Otherwise the series can be recommended to those who like their fictional detectives to be tough but flawed, do not flinch at the odd shooting or assault and welcome the authenticity which comes from taking the cameras out of the studio and into real places. As usual the episode features a raft of overlapping stories in which the cops' private lives feature almost as strongly as their professional ones. Peter Waymark HTV

6.00am GMTV (2575564) 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4028458) 9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6821800) 10.00 The Time . . . the Place (1775496)

10.35 This Morning(57916106) 12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6050545) 12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (6364767) 12.55 Shortland Street (s) (9333361)

1.20 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (32792632) 1.50 Home and Away (Teletext) (76822632) 2.20 Chain Letters. Word game (Teletext) (s) (18767651)

2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (4201477)

3.20 News (Telelext) (2946651) 3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2945922)

3.30 The Riddlers (2776309) 3.40 Wizadora (r) (s) (7350632) 3.55 Rupert (3779629) 4.20 Mike and Angelo (s) (9116467) 4.45 Reboot II (Teletext) (s) (9771729)

5.10 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (6824632) 5.40 News and weather (Telelext) (860106)

6.00 Home and Away Selina accuses Damian of being cynical and selfish and Shannon discovers why Fisher wants to below-average students (r) (Teletext) (237800)

6.25 HTV News (137380) 7.00 Emmerdale. Terry and Viv trip the light fanlastic (Teletext) (5564)

7.30 Survival: Stone Runner. Saving the stone curlew (Teletext) (s) (545)

8.00 The Bill: Worst Fears. While Deakin investigates the kidnapping of a five-yearold boy, Conway gets some unsettling news (Teletext) (4212)

8.30 Blues and Twos: Taking Bricks. A police inspector is shown trying to combat the high drug-related crime rate plaguing Chapeltown In West Yorkshire (Teletext) (s) (4449)



The Flying Squad is back (9.00pm)

9.00 Thief Takers: No One Likes to See That(Teletext) (9800) 10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (24212) 10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (600816)

10.40 FILM: Extreme Prejudice (1987). Drugs-busting thriller with an excess of violence, starring Nick Notte, Powers Boothe and Michael Ironside. Directed by Walter Hill (Teletext) (s) (64594187)

12.40 Not Fade Away: John Altman. His music video choice (s) (4735012) 1.40 Shift (4309152)

2.40 The Crime Hour (r) (7095862)

3.35 Late Night Romantics (r) (s) (1306201) 4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (78713) 5,00 The New Mr & Mrs Show (r) (20688) 5.30 Morning News (48997)

TOTAL YER WATER ON TO As HTV WEST except: 6.25pm-7,00 Wales Tonight (575903) 7.30-8.00 Swansee Festival (545)

WESTCOUNTRY As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (6068564) 12.55 Chain Letters (6349458) 1.25 Emmerdale (32791903)

1.55-2.25 Home and Away (76821903) 2.25 Vanessa (18766922) 2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1435699) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6824632)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (36545) CENTRÂL

As HTV West except: 12.55 Home and Away (6349458) 1.25 Chain Letters (32791903) 1.55 A Country Practice (64054903)

2.20 Vanessa (18767651)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4201477) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6824632) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (575903)

12.40am Live from the Lilydrome (6440607) 2.35 Shift (7115997) 3,30 The Crime Hour with John Stalker and

Mary Nightingale (1307930) 4.25 Jobfinder (5508065) 5.20 Asian Eye (3407404)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (6349458) 1.25 Home and Away (32791903) 2.20 Vanessa (18767651) 2.50-3.20 Behind the Scenes

Penelope Keith (4201477) 5.10 Home and Away (6824632) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (309) 6.30-7.00 Getaways (361)

5.00am Freescreen (20688) Sac Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (58800) 9.00 Fifteen to One (43201) 9.30 Schools

12.00 House to House (21125) 12,30pm Huljaballoo (59496) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (31187) 1.30 Film: Billy the Kld (13686458) 3.15 Ricki Lake (5549767)

4.00 Backdate (274) 4.30 Travelog (458) 5.00 5 Pump Uned 5 (6670) 5.30 Countdown (598) 6.00 Newyddion 6/ News (799670)

6.15 Heno (224767) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (628038) 7.25 Pwv DI Pwv? (886941) 8.00 Y Ferch Drws Nesa (2854)

8.30 Newyddion/ News (1361) 9.00 Or Gajon (2699) 9.00 Caru Ar V Tell (2699)

9.30 Mewn Deg (39632) 10.00 Fflab (183854) 10.35 Gill Ar Gam (418361) 11 00 Tra Ro Dau (4816)

11.30 A Oes Cariad? (13293)

12.00am Dispatches (2858317)

CHANGE TO A SECOND 6.35em Think Tank with Mickey Hutton (r) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (58800)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (43201) 9.30 Schools: Middle English (3169816) 9.45 Place and People (1501767) 10.05 Scientific Eye (1325125) 10.25 Geographical Eye Over Britain (7160903) 10.45 Quest (1790729) 11.00 History in Action: Hypotheticals (7994191) 11.20 Ri Ra (8470729) 11.40 The German Programme (5180212)

12.00 House to House (21125) 12.30pm Sesame Street with Carol Channing Kevin Kline and Phoebe Cates (33651) 1.30 Huliaballoo (r) (s) (58767)

2.00 Seers and Clowns (86403583) 2.10 FiLM: The Easy Way (1952, b/w) starring Cary Grant and Belsy Drake as a couple with three children of their own youngsters. Directed by Norman Taurog (289980) who become foster parents to two other

4.00 Backdate. (Teletext) (s) (274) 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (458) 5.00 Ricki Lake: You Got the Job Because You Are Black (Teletext) (s) (7989854)

5.45 Terrytoons (134293) 6.00 Home Improvement: Dollars and Sense. American comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (651)

6.30 Moviewatch (r) (s) (903) 7.00 Channel 4 News and weather (Teletext) (977632) 7,50 The Slot (855800) 8.00 The Pulse. Shahnaz Pakravan reports

on irritable bowel syndrome. (Teletext) (s) (2854) 8.30 A Taste of the Caribbean: Curação. Dorinda Hafner visits the former Dutch colony. (Teletext) (s) (1361)

9,00 in Advance of the Landing. A journey into the bizarre world of starships, space saviours and new branches of pseudoscience in America, meeting outer space devotees preparing for the arrival of aliens (r) (Teletext) (s) (3670)



Dennis Franz investigates (10.00pm)

10.00 NYPD Blue: ER (Teletext) (s) (449922) 10.55 Whose Line is it Anyway? (r). (Telelexi)

(s) (434309) 11.25 Just for Laughs (368903) 12.05em Dispatches (r) (2847317)

1.35 Rebellion of the Hanged. Set in Mexico in 1909, this is the story of a drunk who gambled his way through a fortune. In Spanish with English subtitles (r) (4408046)

3.00 FILM: Backlash (1986) starring David Arque as a racist policeman who, with probationer constable Gia Carides, is assigned to take a young Aboriginal from Sydney to the small outback town where she is to stand trial for murder. Directed by Bill Bennett (163997). Ends at 4.35

 For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY ONE

7.00am The OJ Kat Show (94485) 8.30 Piers Your Lick (47187) 9.00 Court TV (51767) 8.30 The Oprah Wintey Show (42922) 10.30 Concentration (50651) 11.00 143922 10.30 Concentrator (\$065); 11.00 Selly Jessy Reprise! (\$0477) 12.00 Jeopardy. (\$1907) 12.00 Jeopardy. (\$1900); 12.30pm Marphy Brown (\$9274) 1.00 The Watths: \$74729 3.00 Seracto (\$925)(\$1,90 Conf. TV (\$903) 3.30 The Optah Winney Show (\$260019) 4.15 Undon (\$587274) 5.00 Ser Tele The Nect Televation (\$583) 6.00 The Simpsom (\$274) 6.30 Jeopardy (\$254) 7.00 LAPD (\$212) 7.30 Min 574 (\$908) 2.00 Village (\$212) 7.00 Min 574 (\$212) 2.00 The Commish the Ancestors (37212) 9.00 The Committee (24749) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Gort (수 177835) 11.00 (aw ard Octo 194870) 12.00 Late Store with Dend Leberman 68064231 12.45em. The Undeutrables 6130625; 1.50 SiBS (27084) 2.00-6.00 His

SKY NEWS Next the Max.

Next of the Max.

8.00em Surves: 18557496) 10.30 ABC
Nations (SSN3) 11.00 World News and
Sucress 188019 1.30em CBS News This
Normal (F6167) 2.30 Parisment Live
(6187) 3.30 Parisment Live (1632) 4.00
World Next and Business (8154) 5.00
Live of Five (3125) 6.00 Toroght with Adam
Souton (1436) 8.30 Marchards Report
(3039) 8.00 March News Compile 2004(1)
12.30em ABC World News and Business
(1500) 11.30 CSS Extring News (6441)
12.30em ABC World News Start (3256)
1.30 Toroght with Adam Bouton Replay
(85626) 2.30 Newsonales (36336) 3.30
Parisment Replay (27688) 4.30 CBS
Extrang News (99713) 5.30-6.00 ABC
World News Toroght
SKY MCMITTES

SKY MOVIES 6.00am Madame X (1937) :37019; 8.00 Dames (1934) 63456, 10.00 Semanal Country (1935) :733301 12.00 The Say Survey (1959) (1950) 1970199 Own Dates: (1953) (1955) 12.00 The Say with My Fees (1968) (1950) 2.000000 Damay (1959) (1953) 4.00 Attack on the from Coast (1968) (1957) 6.00 Sanutari Country (1993) 27336534 74.6 US Top Ten (79270) 2.00 Westered at Bernte's E (1993) 54651 2.00 The Pellorin Brid (1993) 79662535 (1.50 Death Wish V — the Face of Death (1993) (225616)

1.25am Benedit of the Doubt (1993) (810826) 3.00-5.00 Secret Caremony SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Captain Blood (1935) (9729) 6.00 Let's Make Love (1960) (81403) 8.00 The Hostage Tower (1960) (15038) 10.00 Project X (1987) (897816) 11.55 Sometimes a Great Notion (1971) (387303) 1.50-3.35em The Milky Way (1968) THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Gelains Boy (1958) (88361) 8.00 Yogi's Great Escape (1957) (67038) 10.00 Alexander the Great (1956) (8635233) 12.15pm The Denver and Ric Grande (1952) (46554) 2.00 The Vaga-bond King (1956) (16729) 6.00 Mojor-Ry Ruie (1952) (2923) 8.00 There Are No Children Here (1953) (5223) 9.30 The Moyle Show (8748) 1.00 Scarner Cop (1953) (416090) 11.40 Contessions of a Window Cleaner (1974) (129534) 1,15am Soam (1992) (111253) 3.00 of a Window Cleaner (1974) (129534) 1.15em Scate (1992) (11265) 3.00 Without Warning: Terror in the Towers

THE DISNEY CHANNEL Sky Mortes Gold from 10pm to 4am. 8,00am Undrella Tree (31790745) 8,30 Fraggic Rock (44321570) 7,700 Vérnie the Pools (74977057) 7,300 Dubitales (89727354) 8,00 Crep in Dale (45549903) 8,30 Adventures in Wanderland (49548274) (99727354) 8.00 Chip in Date (49549903) 8.30 Adventures in Winndolland (49548273) 9.00 Walt Desney Prosonts (31708495) 10.00 Under the Umbroits Tree (5026562) 10.30 Fregole Rock (49558038) 11.00 Mappet Bables (99527902) 11.30 Posh Corner (59828551) 12.00 Cust Astack (49542080) 12.30 gm Durbo's Carcus (20645862) 11.00 Winnderford (75027539) 1.30 The Sarbad Show (21385403; 2.00 The Technologies (20637361) 2.30 Farms for Prosh (14595570) 4.00 Cusck Artack (22381467) 4.30 Durchales (33066831) 5.00 Chip in Dale (20951941) 8.30 Denger Bay (15080011) 8.00 Taizen (18226543) 6.30 Densaus (22381467) 4.30 Penger Bay (1508011) 8.00 Taizen (18226543) 6.30 Densaus (223316323) 9.00-10.00 Erresteinment Special Hathbook (20836125)

cel: Hichooci. (20835125) EUROSPORT 7.30em Figure Skaling (77545) 9.00 Euroski (24361) 9.30 Snowboarding (51380) 10.00 Tenns (9130293) 4.30pm Figure Stating (200361) 9.00 Tennis (71670) 10.00-12.30em Footbell (536019) SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sky Sports Centre (38038) 7.30
Racing News (17545) 8.00 Snowboard Tour (49670) 8.30 Rupby (48941) 9.00 Aerobas Or Style (38293) 9.30 Futbol Mundial (76212) 10.00 Ford Scorpus Golf USA (63748) 12.00 Aerobas Or Skyle (26729) 12.30pm Boots 'n' All (75593) 2.30 Grass Roots Rupby (4381) 3.00 Europeen Masiers Pool (380187) 8.00 Sports Centre (5080) 6.30 Rupby Union (9370) 7.00 right Lines (89390) 7.55 Sports Centre (12651) 8.00 ice Warriors: Cantiff Devis v Durham Wasps (77854) 10.00 Sports Centre (27458) 10.30 Tight Lines (88380) 71.30 Netbusters (88274) 12.30am Ice Warriors (20794) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (44862)

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00mm The Rugby Club (4739729) 8.00 Netbusters (4748477) 9.00 Ford Scorpo Golf USA Late (4741564) 11.00-1.00am Golf (8010496)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00mm Lving World 5.00 Kenneth Cope-land 5.30 Kids TV 5.45 Chrishen Entertain-ment 6.15 Coth Dye 8.45-7.00 Music SKY SOAP 7.00am Guiding Light (7134564) 7.55 As the World Turns (9869583) 8.50 Peyton Place (4217629) 9.20 Days of Our Lives 18.10-11.00 Another World (9228093)

SKY TRAVEL 11.00am Globatrotter (4354564) 11.30 Roads to Freedom (4355293) 12.00 De-Cover Your World (7207962) 12.30pm Frugel Gourner Cooks Rajent (5705564) 1.00 Around the World (7337941) 1.30 Travel Guide (5704903) 2.00 Str Special (401421) 3.00 Getavely (8865564) 3.30-4.00 Kids Down Under (2980941)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

Changing Face of British (\$850816) 6.00-7.00 Beography Noviredams (5712651) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL 1,00am Swamp Thing (6379210) 1.30 Ray

4.00pm The Great Days of Our Contary The Spanish Was (4345816) 5.00 The



Stewart Granger is just dandy in Beau Brummel (TNT, 7.00pm)

9.00em The Joy of Panting (6349212) 9.30 Grow with Joe (7766564) 10.00 Two's Country (7195895) 10.30 Our House (6345496) 11.00 The Pantied House (5729477) 11.30 Riuming Repars (5720106) 12.00 Julia Child (6336748) 12.30pm The Fingal Gourner (790380) 10.00 Yan Can Cook (8862632) 1.30 On the Edge (7799651) 2.00 Dogs with Durbar (2233019) 2.30 Secret Gardens (1593653) 3.00 Two's Country (2253954) 3.30-4.00 The Old House (1492800)

UK GOLD 7.05am Angels (2427390) 7.30 Neighbours (884854) 8.00 Sons and Caughtors (8335019) 8.30 EastEnders (5227390) 8.00 The Bill (631870) 9.30 The Sulvians (779892) 10.00 All Creature, Great and Small (8880036) 11.00 Junet Brain (8660274) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (6333106) 12.30pm Neighbours (775305) 1.00 EastEnders (866090) 1.30 The Bill (7708309) 2.00 The Sulvians, (81850035)

4.00 Cacutally (35358729) 8.05 Larry Grayson's Generation Carna (77258108) 8.15 Kenny's Comic Culs (9607922) 8.25 EssEnders (8490336) 7.00 Elourado (222923377.30 Happy Ever After (1583106) 8.00 Get Some Ini (2238941) 8.30 Home James (2224748) 9.00 Minder (4591729) 10.00 The Bal (9539748) 10.35 Classac Sport (15663816) 11.48 FVTV (1021488) 12.20em Feestonty's Equal (4215775) 12.20em Everybody's Equal (4215775) 12.50 FEM: Suspicion (3235220) 2.30

7.30 California Dreams (16941) 8.00 Sweet Valley High (83039) 8.30 Tiny TCC (55561212) 12.35pm Tiny TCC (49586729) 2.30 Jim Henson's Animal Show (8729) 3.00 Sonic the Hedgehog (1187) 3.30 The Ness Pink Panther Show (3274) 4.00 ITES (2309) 4,30-5.00 Same NICKELODEON

6.00em Swan's Crossing (54187) 6.30 Pugwal (72019) 7.00 Ready or Not (15925)

6.00am Henry's Cel (5276458) 6.15 Blue, Child of the Earth (590564) 6.45 Toucan Ter (5910851) 7.00 Battink (7079632) 7.05 Gnrmy (6743106) 7.45 Rugrets/Doug

(995019) 8.15 Asalni^{III} Real Monsters (2965212) 8.30 Rocko's Modern Life (46683) 9.00 Ahvin and the Chipmunis (37835) 9.30 Pee-Wee's Playhouse (74854) 10.00 Banena Sandwich (44699) 11.00 10.00 Beneria Sandrich (44699) 11.00 Children's BBC (24836) 12.00 Magic School Bus (57699) 12.20pen Grimmy (78670) 1.00 Global Guts (29651) 1.30 Visionantes (77941) 2.00 Children's BBC (88274) 2.00 The Lutilest Pet Shop (5816) 3.30 Teonage Mutant Hero Turtles (4749) 4.00 The Feral's (5633) 4.30 Rugnars and Doug (2787) 5.00 Seter Soler (8831) 5.30 Nancy Drew (3019) 6.00 Ren and Stimpy (3632) 6.30 The Adventures of Pete and Pete (7212) 7.00 The Oxyssey (8075) 7.30-Pele (7212) 7.00 The Odyssey (8075) 7.30-8.00 Oracula (3496) DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Men (1584895) 4.30 Ambulance' (1580019) 5.00 Treasure Hunt-ers (2247699) 5.30 Terra X (1504699) 6.00 Invention (1594212) 6.30 Beyond 2000' (1227941) 7.30 Arthur C Clairie (1581748) 8.00 The Professionals (4502835) 9.00 Top Marques (5732941) 9.30 Science Detec-tives (7787816) 10.00 Classic Wheels (4592458) 11.00-12.00 Fangs' the Super BRAVO 12.00 FILM: The Sime People (8586583) 1.30pm Death Valley Days (7793477) 2.00 Denger Man (7184090) 3.00 The Bucca-

5.30 Honey West (1591125) 6.00 Dead at 21 (1596038) 6.30 Jason King (1122390) 7.30 The Green Homet (1578274) 8.00 Space 1999 (4599361) 8.00 The Prisoner (4519125) 10.00-12.00 FLM Last Ent to

PARAMOUNT

B.00pm Entertainment Tonight (6545) 8.30 The Odd Couple (6380) 8.00 Brothers (23545) 9.30 Laverne and Shirley (65105) 10.00 Entertainment Tonight (65800) 10.30 Dr Kazz (34748) 11.00 Ren and Stimpy (28090) 11.30 The Guyves (84723) 12.00 I Love Lury (25084) 12.30mm The Odd Couple (65978) 1.00 Brothers (81336) 1.30 Laverne and Shirley (21442) 2.00 Entertainment Tonight (65997) 2.30 Dr Kazz (42404) 3.00 Ren and Shirley (61572) 3.30-4.00 The Guyvest (66084)

UK LIVING 6.00am Agony Hour (5232635) 7.00 Kiloy (9364767) 8.00 Esther (9875632) 8.30 More Front Gardens (9974631) 8.00 Gournet Ireland (3813748) 9.35 Kate and Albo (2003361) 10.05 The Jerry Springer Show (6047670) 11.00 The Young and the Resises (8466019) 11.55 Brooksafe (608106) 12.30pm Dengerous Women (4466651) 1.25 Crosswits (5562534) 2.00 Agony Hout (2632167) 2.30 Live at Three (1698748) 4.00 Indentation UK (1104019) 4.30 Crosswits (3799380) 5.05 Lingo (8296800) 5.30 Lively Ladders (1117583) 6.00 Bervitched (1114496) 6.30 Brooksafe (2713729) 7.05 Rhodes around Britain (2559870) 7.40 The Johar's Wild (1617212) (2/13/29) 7.40 The Johar's Wild (1517212) 8.05 The Young and the Restless (5737583) 9.00 FILM. Revenge of the Stephord West (74185651) 10.50 Emertamment Now! (718816) 11.00-12.00 The Erogenous 7ems (87370)

FAMILY CHANNEL 5.00pm Ocean Odyssey (6632) 5.30 The Advenues of Timen (593922) 5.55 Batman (143293) 6.30 Catchphrase (3038) 7.00 Timal Pursuii (6495) 7.30 My Two Dats (322) 8.00 Mclerna (17495) 9.00 Ruth Rendell (97632) 10.00 Treasure Hurti (8149) 11.00 Neon Rider (13854) 12.00 The Adventues of Timin (38572) 12.30am Bordertown (21794) 1.00 Batman (10862) 1.30 Rhoda (34630) 2.00 Big Brother Jake (38341) 2.30 Neon Rider (2368) 2.30 Rhoda (71930) 4.00 Big Brother Jake (92423) 4.30-6.00 Ocean Odyssey (31355) MTV

(9584800) 7.15 Aureke (3490545) 8.00 Videos (749941) 11,00 Soul (65449) 12.00 Hits (95361) 1.00pm Music Non-Stop (6185729) 2.15 3 from 1 (20102125) 2.30 (8185/29) 2.15 3 from 1 (2010/2125) 2.30 Sports (4877) 3.00 Chematic 3.15 Hanging Out (172353) 4.00 News 4.15 Hanging Out (8244922) 4.30 Dual MTV (3651) 5.00 Top Ten Tures (7125) 5.00 Hanging Out (31545) 7.00 Greatest Htt (31926) 8.00 The Worst of Most Wanted (4274) 8.30 Gude to Atlemative Music (22105) 9.30 Beavs and Butt-head (5090) 10.00 News 10.15 Chematic (2254) 11.0130 Apoc Eur 10.15 Cinematic (725941) 10.30 Aeon Flux (41-196) 11.30 The End? (14748) 12.30am

7.00mm Power Breekfast (733621.2) 9.00 Cate (8207456) 12.00 Heart and Soul (5726125) 1.00pm Vnyt Years 2.00 Jona-than King (2106039) 3.00 Into the Music (2526564) 6.00 Bruce Springsteen

VH-1

THE PERSON OF TH (5722309) 7.90 VH-1 for You 47311871 8.00 Review (4740835) 9.00 Ten of the Best: Def Leppard (4750899) 10.00 Vinyl Years (4730458) 11.00 The Bridge (8012854) 1.00esn Morten Harket (2903978) 2.00 Dewn Patrol ZEE TV

7.00em Asian Morring (8666) 2741 8.20
7.00em Asian Morring (8666) 2741 8.20
7.00em Asian Morring (8031) 9.00 Tamil
FLM Puchu Puchu Arthangel (8031) 941
12.00 Dekh Bhai Dekh (1355) 698
12.20pm Inde Show (5285) 639
1.00 Hindl
Movier Fyar Ka Sanya (821736) 1.00 Hindl
Movier Fyar Ka Sanya (821736) 1.00 Hindl
Movier Fyar Ka Sanya (821736) 1.00 Tamil
Movier Fyar Ka Sanya (821736) 1.00 Zee
10.00 Countdown to Cricket (1179369) 6.20
2ee and U (117776) 7.00 Antasheri
(37887835) 7.30 Gelances (1177383) 8.00
Ness (37996583) 8.30 Anchas (37975090)
9.00 Undu Serial Kachey Dhagey
(57727651) 10.00 Zee Hostor Show
(12101057) 10.30 Your Zindag (30101877)
11.00 Commander (42316748) 11.3012.00 Sh Kinsha

CARTOON NETWORK/INT Cartoons from Sam to 7pm; TNT films. 7.00pm Beau Brummel (1954) (90177895) 9.00 Deef Smith and Johnny pol (1785) 9.00 Deef Smith and Johnny Earn (1973) (20816090) 11.00 Ringo and His Golden Pistol (1966) (42468022) 12.40em The Silent Stranger (1969) (9099515) 2.20-4.20 Dirty Dingus kieges (1970)

CNN/QVC CNN provides 24-hour news and GVC is the home shopping channel. BBC PRIME

8.00am BSC Newsday 6.30 Jackenory 6.45 The Secret Garden 7.15 Bus Peter 7.40 Catchword 8.10 A Question of Sport 8.40 The Bill 9.10 The Best of Kitroy 10.05 Can't Cook Word: Cook 11.30 Good Morning 12.05pm Petitide Mill 1.00 Wildlife 1.30 The Bill 2.00 Hot Cheta 2.10 Kitroy 2.55 Jackanory 3.10 The Secret Garden 3.40 Bive Peter 4.05 Catchword 4.35 Duty Men 5.30 2point4 Children 6.00 The World 10day 6.30 The Great Antiques Hurs 7.00 Fresh Reids 7.30 EastEnders, 8.00 Tears Before Bacture 9.00 BBC News 9.30 Hotel Du Lic 11.00 The Onedin Line 12.00 Kate and Alie 12.25am The Reif Reif Berneri 1.15 Blake 5 Seven 2.10 Lytich's Dary 2.05 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game 4.05 The Reif Reif Element 4.55-6.00 Blake's Seven

THURSDAY JANUARY 25 1996

Rowell summons teenaged wing

English rugby trains eyes on future talent

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ALL season, Jack Rowell, the manager of the England rugby union team, has bemoaned the lack of young talent worthy of consideration for his national squad. Yesterday, he did something about it, by calling a teenager from his school books in Yorkshire to join training this weekend in preparation for the five nations' championship match against Wales on February 3.

Paul Sampson, from Wood-house Grove School, near Bradford, will not play at Twickenham, but the mere fact that he will mingle with such as Carling, Guscott and Underwood, faces familiar only from the television screen, confirms the moodswing in the management. This season, the squad has already been decorated by the youthful looks of Andy Gomarsall, 21. Now he is joined by Alex King, 20, and Sampson, a mere 18.

This is all part of the familiarisation programme that Rowell, in concert with John Elliott, the Rugby Football Union's development officer, seeks to put in place. The ambition is to bring on young talent and introduce it to the international environment, at times despite the leading clubs, whose selections tend towards the conservative.

Rowell has been envious that France could introduce 20-year-olds, Thomas Castaignède and the contro-Richard Dourthe, against, of all opponents, New Zealand last autumn. Austra-

ACROSS

1 Perfection: furthest point

10 Decorated with glittering

18 As flag flies out of respect (4.4)

21 Open framework, crossed

22 Nebraska city: Normandy

23 Vision-corrector worm in eye

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket

travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international

WW2 beach (5)

(Lat.)(2.4.5)7 Account of the year (5)

gems (8) 11 Artful lure (4)

17 Lug, drag (4)

strips (7)

13 Wealth (6)

8 Harsh, extreme (7)

15 Plain; rigorous; 8 (6)

lia's ability to produce young stars — Tim Horan and Jason Little were 19 when they made their international debuts -- is also well-documented. Last week, Wales gave Leigh Davies, 19, his head against Italy. and another 19-year-old, Jo-nah Lomu, played for the All Blacks against France in 1994.

There is an excitement in supply chain," Rowell said.
"The hope is that, when Sampson develops and returns to the international squad, he will not be overawed. England are always looking for young players with potential. The

Richard Dourthe, the France centre, has been banned by the French Rugby Federation for two five nations' championship matches for stamping on the head of Ben Clarke, the England No 8, during the game in Paris last weekend.

challenge is there for the many good club players around England: are you good enough to play international rugby successfully?"

Sampson is one of nine players added to the squad beaten 15-12 by France in Paris last weekend and earns his place thanks to his six appearances last season in the England 18-group schools team and glowing reports from Nigel Melville, his mentor at Otley, where he plays his

1 Primitive (type of man)

5 Cooperating group (4)

9 Document confirming

12 Coastal promenade (8)

14 Corrosive: sarcastic (7)

16 Taker of pictures (6)

19 Astound (5)

With one leg on each side

2 Chinese black/white animal

The management spent the rugby out of term.
"He not only has excellent No 687 in association with **BRITISH MIDLAND**

(Lecester).

ENGLAND A (v New South Wales) T Stimpson (West Hartlepool): P Hatt (Bro-to), A Blyth (West Hartlepool), W Green-wood (Harlequins), A Adebayo (Bazt), A

pace but he has good vision, can tackle superbly and placeplayer," Melville, himself a teenager in the England squad of 1979, said. "We've been playing him on the wing to give him a bit of experience, but I think it is full back which will allow him to have more

Sampson started the 1995 representative schools season at full back and finished on the right wing. As a wing, he occupies a position where England have wrestled all season: Rory Underwood, at 32, is nearing the end of a distinguished career, his brother, Tony, is recovering from a knee operation, and Damian Hopley — a centre — was pressed into service on the wing before the advent last

Saturday of Jon Sleightholme. Rory Underwood, in 1984, and Kevin Simms, a fortnight after his twentieth birthday in 1985, have been England's youngest caps of late.
"I'm delighted they have

recognised it can be a young man's game." Geoff Wappett. the England schools coach. said. "One of the things which came out loud and clear from last year's World Cup was that there are opportunities for young men, and we are no different to any of the others. Some of our young men can

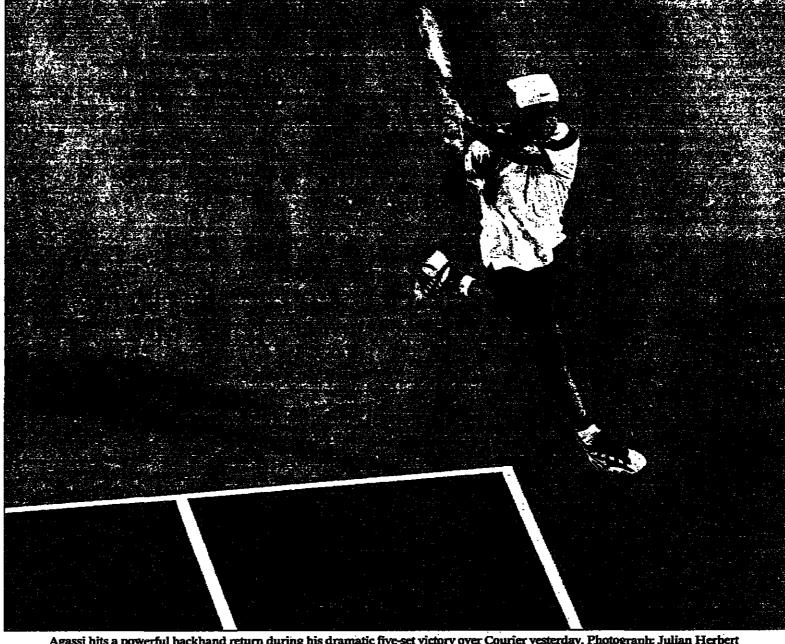
best part of four hours analysing video of the defeat by France before settling on their training squad and the A XV to play New South Wales at Leicester on January 31. All members of the match party of 21 in Paris are retained, while five of the backs who contribthe A international with France, plus Tony Diprose of the forwards, are added.

the forwards, are added.

ENGLAND TRANNING SOLIAD: Backs: J
Callard Bath, M Cati (Bath, A Adelbayo
(Bath), J Sieightholme (Bath). D Hopley
(Wasps). P Sampson (Obley), R Underwood (Lacestar). W Carling (Hariequris).
P de Glanville (Bath). W Greenwood
(Hariequris). Guooti (Bath). P Grayson
(Northampton), A King (Bristo University).
K Bracken (Bristo). M Dawson (Northampton), A Gomaniali (Wasps). Forwards: J
Leonerd (Hariequris). G Rowntree (Lacester), V Uloqu (Bath). G Dawe (Bath). M Regan (Bristo). M Rayfield (Northampton).
S Ojomoh (Bath), A Robinson (Bath). T
Rodber (Northampton). B Clarke (Bath). T
Rodber (Northampton). B Clarke (Bath). T
Rodber (Saraceris). D Richards
(Lacester).

ENGLAND A Iv New South Wales). T

wood (Hartequist), A Adebayo (Batt), A King (Bristo) University), A Healey (Cirefi-R | Hardwick (Coventry), R Cockerdi (Lecester), D Garforth Loricester), M Corry (Parsoti), G Archer (Bristo), J Fowler (Sale. R HB (Saracors), A Denose (Sale.acetan), Replacements: P Mensah (Hote curch, R Liley (Sale), A Gomersal (Wacps), K Yates (Bath) P Greening (Gloucester), C Sheasby (Harlenuns)



Agassi hits a powerful backhand return during his dramatic five-set victory over Courier yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Resolute Agassi proves irresistible

FROM STUART JONES TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE elements played tricks throughout the longest of quarter-final days at the Australian Open. A violent wind blew through the first match. a storm erupted midway through the second and the last three had to be staged indoors under the sliding roof. To cope with the conditions, serenity and conviction were required. Some were not up to the task.

Martina Hingis has yet to develop such qualities. Conchita Martinez will find anv excuse. Yevgeny Kafelnikov was never mentally atuned. Nor was Thomas Enqvist. Of the losers, therefore, only Jim Courier was properly equipped, but he ran into a tempest of such force that he

could not resist it. Courier, twice a champion here, not only took the opening two sets, as he had at the same stage against Pete Sampras a year ago, but was also a breal up at the start of the third. He had forced Andre Agassi into a position where, as he later reflected, he "didn't have too

many options".

which restored him to No I in the world ranking, may not have been "a miracle" as he claimed, but it qualified as extraordinary. He gathered such momentum during his first ever recovery from a twoset deficit that Courier was on the verge of yielding the fifth to

"I don't think he has ever come on that strongly," Couri-I've played in the tournament." Better, in other words, than his own revivals against Todd Woodbridge and Marcos Ondruska, both of whom had been 2-1 ahead in sets in

the previous two rounds. Agassi's 6-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory means that he has now come from behind four times. He has played well in patches and, even if the closing three sets against Courier were adorned in a richest purple, it is as though he has been motivated only by the revelation that his title has been

about to be taken from him. He is unlikely to be short of inspiration in the semi-final. He faces Michael Chang, whom he has witheringly dismissed as a player who "runs for a living". Nor was he

injured, he joined his American colleagues in Moscow for the Davis Cup final last month. The absent Chang was lambasted. "He hasn't played since 1990," Agassi said. "That shows his level of interest. Everybody else is committed except him.

Courier would not be drawn into the domestic, one-sided

Flinders Park results 39

verbal warfare. However, he did suggest that Agassi, a rival he had beaten every time since the French Open final of 1991. holds the edge in spite of the conspicuous ease which with Chang has progressed. He has yet to drop a set, but "he hasn't played anybody of Andre's calibre and, the way Andre's hitting the ball, he [Chang] is going to have to

play very, very well to beat him." Kafelnikov looked even further and predicted that, as long as the event stays indoors, Boris Becker will regain the title he held five years ago. However, Kafelnikov's prophesies should be regard-

ed as dubious. After the fourth round, he forecast that he, himself, would be the champion, a notion ridiculed by Becker on court and derided off it. Nor was that the immature Russian's only offering adjudged to have been ill-considered.

His reaction to a favourable

call, which gave him a 5-1 lead in the second set tie-break, was to blow a kiss to the line judge, Becker observed. As retribu-

mere six points in the first five games of the third set. Becker rated his performance as one of his top three in Australia. He struck 28 aces, but Mark Woodforde, his opponent in the semifinals, the first home representative in the last four since Pat

Cash in 1988, has been

tion, Kafelnikov was allowed a

advantage the power of opponents such as Mark Philippoussis and the flustered Engvist"

Martinez lost her footing shortly after the roof had been closed and scraped the skin off her racket hand: inexplicably, she did not seek treatment until she had conceded the second set to Anke Huber and effectively the match by dropping the first three games of the third.

The comparatively inexperienced Hingis earlier lost patience with the ceaseless retrieving of the diminutive Amanda Coetzer and with the swirling wind. The 15-year-old was plainly unaware of the common saying here. "If you don't like the weather in Melbourne, stick around for five minutes."

Brentford craving is hard cheese for Cup opponents

By ALYSON RUDD Brentford have always been

at the cutting edge.
Cadbury's Chomp bars
were banned from Griffin

Park after thousands were

thrown on to the pitch after a

rare league victory three sea-sons ago. Taking a barge to a

match is nothing new, either

followers. Billy Grant has been organising alternative

travel to away fixtures for the

past six years. His most

ambitious project was a magi-

cal mystery tour, where the

surprise factor was diluted for

anyone who had read Brent-

ford's fixture-list and saw they

were playing at Stoke City. Brentford, of the Endsleigh

You must be the

Brentford fans

- at least not for Brentford

3 Less polluting type of petrol MATCH of the Day should substitute Delia Smith and 4 Give latest information (6) Keith Floyd for Gary Lineker and Alan Hansen on Saturday. The Valley, home of Charlton Athletic, will be awash with dairy products as the cheese-bearing hordes of Brentford descend upon that corner of south London for their team's FA Cup fourthround tie.

20 One from Helsinki (4) Members of the Brentford Official Unofficial Supporters' Posse have hired a boat to carry their 80-strong party and their stash of edam. stilton and Dairylea - plus crackers - from Kew Pier to network
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers the Thames Barrier. They will gorge on cheddar and binge on gouda en route, during the an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UKs second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week match and afterwards as part of their anticipated celebra-

One particularly ardent follower has constructed eight 3ft high hats, including a beret depicting two crackers with a cheese filling and a cap featuring a mouse nibbling at

a chunk of Gruyère. There is a proud tradition of bearing bizarre objects to football stadiums. The first rattle was no doubt scoffed at and it took only a few weeks for the inflatable banana to become passé. And who could forget Grimsby Town's bounInsurance League second di-vision, discovered the power of cheese in December, when they played Bournemouth in the FA Cup first round. When a Tom Jones record came on the jukebox, one supporter stood up and called it "cheesy". The chant "cheese, cheese, cheese" took over the establishment and the landlady showed her gratitude by presenting them with an enormous platter of cheeses.

"It started as a joke and then we won — a clear omen. So at the following Cup game at Norwich, everyone spontaneously brought along cheese and crackers," Grant said. Anyone captivated, or just feeling peckish and wanting

to join in, cannot simply raid their fridge. This is an organised campaign. One supporter, when asked what cheese she would be taking, replied: "I'm not sure yet, I'll have to meet with Billy." "We are a politically-correct

group. There will be no French cheese at the Charlton match. It will be Somerset Brie and we will try not to litter the river," Grant said. And what if Brentford reach Wembley? The ultimate prize in English football would undoubtedly be celebrated in west London with a cheese and wine party.

Newcastle close in on **Asprilla** KEVIN KEEGAN, the New

castle United manager, re-turned from Italy last night confident that he had finally concluded negotiations to bring Faustino Asprilla to the club (David Maddock writes) Keegan had been involved in protracted talks over the pay ment structure of the Colombia international's contract.

Asprilla, the Parma for ward, wanted half of the money up-front, instead of over the course of the four year deal. He is thought to have negotiated a signing-on fee in the region of £2 million. in addition to wages of around E15,000 a week. After talks lasting two days, Keegan finally agreed a transfer that will cost Newcastle a total of £6.7 million, inclusive of the signing on fee. Asprilla will

receive £1.2 million a year. The player however, has yet to sign the contract and has said he will stay with Parma until the end of the month. It is thought that the delay is because he wants to negotiate a settlement with Parma.

Asprilla said: "I'm about to start on a fascinating adventure and I'm going happily. Parma don't want me while Kevin Keegan has shown great interest. Newcastle will he a breath of fresh air."

Gradi's goal, page 40 Venables prepares, page 40

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DOWN: 2 Logjam 3 Handicap 4 Twist 6 Hush 7 Flambe 8 Nearby 13 Sigleton 14 Medley 16 Anorak 17 Mirage 19 Shell 21 Span

Comesin

Kohl and unions set goal of 2m more jobs

FROM ROGER BOYES

GERMANY'S Government, trade unions and employers vowed yesterday to work together to cut by half the number of unemployed over the next four years.

The blueprint was drawn up after four hours of negotiations under the chairmanship of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and sets out measures that would make the labour market more flexible, cut social welfare spending and spur new entrepreneurs.
All sides, while acknowledg-

ing the problems ahead, hailed the plan as an important first step. "Now things can really get going," said Dieter Schulte, the union federation leader. "We are agreed on the basic goal of halving unemployment by 2000."

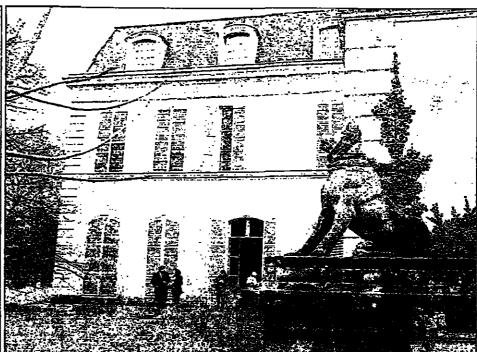
Registered unemployment stands at close to four million, so the commitment is to create two million jobs. Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, was more cautious, say-ing that they "had laid out principles upon which we can work to form a consensus and create better conditions for increasing employment".

There is no consensus on a number of crucial issues. The unions are resisting changes to the early retirement pro-gramme, which is proving costly to the Government. Moreover, their offer of wage restraint may not come into effect until next year.

Employers want value-added tax to be raised to ease the burden of social welfare contributions. But Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is against the idea. So is the opposition Social Democratic Party. Its chairman, Oskar Lafontaine, who was not invited to the talks, described raising VAT as "poison to the economy".

Economists, analysing forecasts and company plans, predict German growth will rise above 2 per cent in 1997 but unemployment will stay high at 9.6 per cent of the workforce this year, and 9.4 per cent in 1997.





Vincent Beguin Billecocq, left, a former tenant, in front of a stripped-out fireplace at the château of Mme du Barry, in Louveciennes, outside Paris; right, the exterior

Woman held over 'stripped' French properties



Yokoi: three years in Japanese jail

FROM SUSAN BELL

KIKO NAKAHARA, a British resident and the daughter of a Japanese business magnate, has been arrested by French police and charged with forgery and breach of trust after allegedly buying 15 historic properties in Europe and stripping them of their

contents for personal gain. Between 1985 and 1989, Ms Nakahara, who is said to have represented herself as a protector of French heritage, allegedly bought eight châteaux in France, spending almost 100 million francs (£13 million). During the same period she apparently bought seven other European castles, mainly in Britain and Spain.

She and her husband are accused of stripping the French properties of their contents, including priceless

antique furniture, tapestries and statues, and selling them. It is thought some of the items may have been sold in London. The couple allegedly even ripped out l6th-century fireplaces and original wood panelling. The empty châteaux were then allegedly abandoned. Although she barely speaks a word

of French, Ms Nakahara was allegedly extremely convincing in her selfacclaimed role as the Japanese saviour of French heritage. Immaculately dressed, she was described as "refined", "charming" and "very well brought-up" by former owners who were allegedly persuaded that Ms Nakahara would cherish and preserve the family homes that they could no longer afford.

Ms Nakahara was allegedly aided

by her husband, Jean-Claude Perez-Vaneste, 49, an international business-

man, who prefers to be known as Jean-Paul Renoir. He allegedly accompanied his wife on her buying trips to France, acting as a translator. Former owners recall that he was adept at negotiating a good price, mentioning projects to turn the castles into museums, hotels, or upmarket tourist

One of 17 children, Ms Nakahara is the favourite daughter of Hideki Yokoi, an octogenarian Japanese millionaire who bought the Empire State Building in the late 1980s and whose business empire, Nippon Sangyo. specialises in construction, transport, bars and casinos. Mr Yokoi is serving a three-year prison sentence in Tokyo for manslaughter and fraud, after a fire in one of his hotels in which 33 people died. The tragedy was attributed to a lack of standard safety

French police have sought to question the couple about the châteaux affair since 1992. However, they found their investigation blocked by long legal battles with Nippon Sangyo's powerful fawyers.

However, when M Perez-Vaneste created the company Châteaux Holdings in 1995 with the assumed motive of selling the properties, Nippon Sangyo complained that the couple planned to sell the Japanese company's assets for their own profit and a warrant was issued for their arrest.

M Renoir was not with Ms Nakahara when she was arrested last Friday during an appointment with a property adviser set up by fraud police. He was still being sought by police yesterday. Ms Nakahara is now being held by the French authorities in a women's prison near the château of Versailles.

Poland's PM quits over spy claims

JOZEF OLEKSY, the Polish Prime Minister, announced his resignation last night after the military prosecutor said there was enough evidence to investigate the former Communist on charges of spying for the KGB.

"In the name of reasons of state, I have decided to re-sign," Mr Oleksy said on Polish television. But he firmly reiterated he is innocent.

The decision has plunged Poland into its worst political crisis since the collapse of Communism. It puts a ques-tion mark over the future of the whole Government, dominated by former Communists, and over Poland's relationship

The military prosecutor said yesterday that he would be investigating the role of two former Russian diplomats based in Warsaw — Vladimir Alganov and Grigori Yakimishin. Mr Oleksy had been accused by Polish police offi-cers of passing documents to his long-time next-door neighbour, a KGB colonel. The Prime Minister had denied espionage, but admits enjoy-ing a friendship with the agent, saying he took him to be an innocent diplomat.

He had promised to resign if the prosecutor pressed charges or opened a case against

The mere fact of his friendship with a senior KGB agent - they went hunting and played tennis together — was enough to jeopardise his career for many Poles. It is now unthinkable Mr Oleksy will, as planned, succeed Presideni Kwasniewski as chairman of the party.

Opposition parties, with the Freedom Union to the fore, are demanding that a new government be put together to restore

Poland's world credibility.

The pivotal role is being played by the Polish Peasant Party, which represents the farm lobby. It is in alliance with Mr Oleksy's former Communists, but could make common cause with the

Banned Mitterrand book on Internet

BY SUSAN BELL

COMPUTER buffs can now read the banned book about François Mitterrand, The Big Secret, by the late French President's doctor, but only on the Internet.

The police said yesterday that they had paid an informal visit to Le Web, the trendy cyber-café in the eastern

French town of Besançon whose owner, Pascal Barbraud, put the forbidden book on the internationally accessible Internet. A police inspector said the visit was not part of legal proceedings.
The lawyers I have contact-

ed confirmed the legal loophole which surrounds access to the Internet," M Barbraud said. "In any case I am not

selling anything." The book's publisher, Editions Plon. which opposed the move to put the book on the Internet. has taken no action. Copies of the book sold out

within two hours when it appeared in French bookshops last Wednesday. The next day it was banned after a request from the Mitterrand family, including his widow

Danielle and his illegitimate daughter. Stunned by the ban, M Barbraud transcribed into his Internet site late on Tuesday the entire 190-page book by Dr Claude Gubler, the late President's physician, who claims that the former President, who died of prostate cancer on January 8, lied to the French public for 11 years about his health.

Naples fire kills nine Naples: The death toll from a men said. Water pipes explod-

fire, which erupted in a Naples suburb overnight, rose to nine yesterday. The dead included five construction workers working on a slip road linking the peripheral district of Scondigliano with the city,

which sent a cement-mixer and dozens of cars hurtling into a crater about 66ft, fireed after the collapse of a building, and the crater was filled with water. Residents of the collapsed building said they had repeat-

edly complained to authorities that the building was in and a young girl.

The fire triggered blasts, danger of collapse. Panic broke when authorities evacuated about a thousand people from their homes, fearing further explosions. (AFP)



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Utah execution may end use of firing squads

TWO minutes after midnight tonight, John Albert Taylor is due to be strapped to a chair in a converted warehouse be-neath Utah's Wasatch Mountains and shot through the heart by five anonymous

He will eat pizza for his final meal and be allowed a cigarette as he walks to the execution chamber. As a black hood is pulled over his face Taylor, who was convicted seven years ago of raping and murdering an II-year-old girl, will have the grim satisfaction of knowing his death may end the use of firing squads in

The last American prisoner to die this way was the first to be executed after the Supreme Court allowed the reintroduction of the death penalty in 1977. Gary Gilmore, another convicted murderer, was shot at dawn in the same state prison on January 21 that year. A law is being drafted that would end Utah's distinction as the only state to give death row inmates a choice between lethal injection and the firing squad. The law's sponsor, Sheryl Alian, is anxious that the world should look on Utah "positively, as a progressive state", as it celebrates its centenary and prepares to host the 2002 Winter Olymchair, death penalty opponents have descended on Salt Lake City to find local opinion largely against them and a prisoner determined to die.

Taylor, 36, has admitted breaking into the house where Charla King lived until 1989, but denies killing her even though his fingerprints were found near her body. Last month he dismissed his lawyers, dropped all appeals and demanded to be shot so as not to "flop around like a dying fish" under a lethal injection. The move sent officials at the

Taylor: raped and

pics. But as prison guards
stack sandbags behind the tions scrambling to improvise the building of a firing range and the recruitment of live

> A disused warehouse in the main state prison 25 miles south of Salt Lake City has been equipped with one-way mirrors for observers and plywood partitions for the firing squad. Officials were deluged with offers from marksmen, including a letter signed by an entire US Army platoon stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The firing squad will consist of local police volunteers. One rifle will be loaded with blanks. Yesterday they prac-tised firing in unison on command. The gunmen appear to have the support of most of this deeply conserva-

Taylor's decision has nevertheless proved awkward for the Mormon Church, which dominates Utah life. Criminologists have speculated that behind his sudden demand for a firing squad is an ancient Mormon belief in "blood atonement", without which church members who have sinned cannot be forgiven nor rise through the many levels of heaven in the afterlife. Church elders have denied strongly that blood atonement is a part

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LAST 4 DAYS

pointed out that Taylor recently converted to Catholicism. He has been a Mormon for most of his life, however.

Taylor's death warrant has been signed, and only a federal appeal from the prisoner can prevent his execution. He has vowed to make no further appeals, but human rights lawyers are petitioning state politicians and holding a series of press conferences and vigils in an attempt to prevent what they see as a barbaric step. A firing squad "lays bare the brutality of capital punish-ment". Joe Baker, of Amnesty International, said.

Charla King's mother ech-oed more closely the feelings of a nation that has seldom been less tolerant of violent crime. "I don't want his execution," she said on national television on Tuesday. "I need it." ☐ Jarratt, Virginia: Richard Townes, 45, who maintained

his innocence to the end, was executed by injection for the 1985 robbery and murder of a 22-year-old woman shop assistant. "I'm innocent. That's all I have to say. I'm innocent," he said in a last statement. Witnesses said the execution was delayed 22 minutes because of difficulties in finding suitable veins for the injection. (Reuter)

The Original



Timu, a female gorilla conceived in a test tube, with Dawn Strasser, keeper of Cincinnati Zoo nursery. The animal, born last October, is the newest member of the American 200's gorilla family and went on show for the first time on Tuesday

Pacific braces for millennium storm over matter of degrees

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

PACIFIC islanders are squabbling over the International Dateline. They cannot agree which far-flung piece of land will be first to see the sunrise of the next millennium. The argument, which has

involved the United Nations, the Royal Greenwich Observatory and much flexing of beachside palm trees, might not have happened but for entrepreneurial schemes for New Year's Eve, 1999. Travel agents have detected a market for "we were first-to-see inthe new-millennium" parties and are scouring the Pacific for the first landfall west of the dateline. The agreed venue

vill make a fortune. The search has been complicated by the decision of some islanders to "move" the dateline. The tiny nation of Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert. Phoenix and Line island groups, has angered its Pacific neighbours by moving part of

the line to its eastern extremity. Caroline Island. The little-

of President Te buroro Tito and solved the problems which beset Kiribati when it was split by the dateline. It was, formerly, a bold man who used the word "today" in Kiribatian society. Nearby Tonga, which was happily expecting to be venue

noticed move was a key item in the 1993 political manifesto.

for the lucrative parties, thinks that Kiribati has pulled a fast one. The King of Tonga is not happy. The International Dateline Hotel in the Tongan

change, it may also lose the bookings it has taken for the turn of the millennium. There is similar dismay in the Chat-ham Islands, and on New Zealand's North Island, where the town of Gisborne was limbering up for the big night with the argument that west of the line it is the first place with good bars. Gisborne District Council was planning a party atop a mountain which has early views of the sunrise.

As a result of the presiden-tial manoeuvre, however, Kiribati will now see the millennium's dawn 22 minutes before the Chathams, and a humiliating 80 minutes before Tonga. The Royal Greenwich Ob

servatory and cartographers have accepted Kiribati's line change, and appeals to the United Nations have met with the response that the dateline. decided by an international conference in 1884, is beyond its control.

Britain asks Asia for more UN cash

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WITH the United Nations facing financial collapse. Britain unveiled a proposal yesterday that would make emerg-ing economic powers in Asia and Latin America pay a bigger share of the organisation's costs.

The British plan, which has the backing of the whole European Union, aims to save the UN from a looming bankruptcy caused by the refusal of the United States to pay its full share of peacekeeping costs.

To the fury of other UN

members, the US Congress has unilaterally cut America's peacekeeping contribution from 31 per cent of the total to 25 per cent — the same as it pays to the general UN budget. UN officials predict that the

organisation will run out of cash some time in April and again from peacekeeping funds, which are meant to be distributed to countries that send troops on UN duty The British plan calls for a

change in the scale of assessments that fixes each country's UN contribution according to its gross national product. The proposal cuts the UN contri-bution of about 120 of its 185 members, ensuring it will receive widespread support. Russia, for instance, would

see its 1997 UN dues fall from 4.27 per cent to 1.96 per cent to reflect its economic decline. Its peacekeeping contribution would go from 5.3 per cent to 2.26 per cent.

America would continue to pay 25 per cent of the regular UN budget, but its peacekeep-ing dues would fall from about

If you can to 28.75 per cent.

Japan would find its UN contribution rising from 15.65 per cent to 17.77 per cent. Emerging economies, such as those of China, Singapore, Thailand, Mexico, Chile and Argentina, would also have a sharp increase in UN dues.

Britain's contribution to the UN regular budget would shrink slightly from 5.32 per cent to 5.29 per cent, with its from 6.6 per cent to 6.08 per cent. With Britain now paying about \$250 million a year in UN dues the proposed changes could be expected to save the British taxpayer about \$1 million a year.

British officials hope the plan will help to break the damaging financial deadlock between America and the UN reducing the level of Washington's dues.

The debate is likely to culminate in the summer with a the UN General Assembly discussing a deal twinning financial changes with costcutting reforms.

Soldier sacked for refusing **UN** duty

FROM TOM RHODES

A HERO to many in the American heartland, Michael New was dismissed yesterday in disgrace by the United States Army after refusing to serve under any flag other

than his own. Specialist New, 22, an army medic based in Germany, is the first American serviceman to be court-martialled for failing to wear United Nations insignia on his uniform and accept a posting to Macedonia last year under UN command.

New — who has been busy bolstering the Republican presidential campaign of the commentator Pat Buchanan has staunchly refused to change his position since the unit was dispatched to the Serbian border. He now faces a maximum of six months in prison, a dishonourable discharge and a loss of pay.

The tribunal at Leighton Army Barracks in Wurzburg took only two days to find him guilty of disobeying an order. His act of resistance has been the staple diet of talk shows and, although largely ignored by the mainstream, the case has made headlines in small papers and conservative news-letters throughout America. Supporters have printed "Michael New For President" stickers, and militia leaders celebrate his name as they

burn the UN flag.
On the campaign trail, Mr Buchanan has gained overwhelming applause for citing New as an example of an individual lighting the terrors of world government.

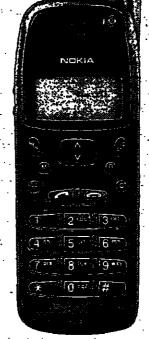


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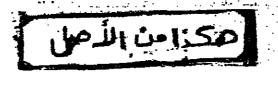
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President Cu

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State of the Union speech praises 'a wonderful wife, magnificent mother and great First Lady'

Clinton claims the centre ground to upset Republicans

DISGRUNTLED Republicans accused President Clinton of purloining their best issues yesterday as opinion polls and pundits agreed he had won the first big battle of the 1996 election with a masterful State of the Union speech on Tuesday night.

Nearly half the country

watched on television as Mr Clinton used his hour-long address to Congress to seize the centre ground, blur his ideological differences with the Republicans and distance himself from Democratic or-thodoxies. He twice declared: The era of big government is

Robert Dole, Mr Clinton's probable opponent this Nov-ember, selected himself to deliver his party's formal response. He used it to reinforce his shaky credentials as a conservative "revolutionary" and highlight the very ideological differences Mr Clinton

sought to minimise.

"We have starkly different philosophies of government and profoundly different visions of America." the 72-yearold Senate leader insisted. Mr Clinton believed in "more government, bigger govern-

the last public defender of a discredited status auo". Most agreed that Mr Clinton won this inaugural encounter. Even some Republi-cans criticised Mr Dole's

unconvincing delivery. "President Clinton can fake a compelling vision while Senator Dole is too decent to try to fake a vision he clearly does not have," said Lamar Alexander, a rival for the presidential nomination. Pat

Clinton: "The era of big

Buchanan, another rival, said: To beat this guy we had better have an authentic con-

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, conceded it was "the President's night" but accused Mr Clinton of "talking like Ronald Reagan" while "governing like Lyndon Johnson". President Johnson was the architect of the "Great Society" programmes that Republicans

now seek to dismantle.

A CBS television poll showed 69 per cent approval of Mr Clinton's speech, and by 49 per cent to 34 per cent, respondents said that the President understood their needs best. An ABC television poll gave the speech a 75 per cent approval rating with 51 per cent preferring Mr Clinton's vision and 28 per cent backing the Republicans.
State of the Union addresses

always make compelling the-atre, and this began with Mr Clinton handing Mr Gingrich a spoof text of his speech. reading: "Thank you, and good night." That was what Mr Gingrich had earlier told reporters he wanted to hear. But the emotional high point came when the President praised his embattled wife. Hillary, who has been subpoe-



Hillary and Chelsea Clinton watch the arrival of President Clinton in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill to deliver his State of the Union address

naed to appear before a Whitewater grand jury tomorrow. Departing from his text, he looked up to the gallery and called her "a wonderful wife, a magnificent mother and a great First Lady". Democrats cheered. Republicans stayed mostly silent — the presence of Chelsea Clinton, the Clintons'

daughter, perhaps deterring stronger signs of disapproval. Mr Clinton's speech was a brilliant exercise in political positioning. Seeking to deny the Republicans' potent wedge" issues in November, he embraced their broad themes of smaller government, personal responsibility. welfare reform, family values. law and order, and curbs on illegal immigration.

With the public disgusted at Washington's endless partisan wrangling, Mr Clinton

posed as a conciliator, praising the Republicans for the "determination" with which they were battling to balance the budget. The Republicans refused to join the applause when he insisted a deal was in reach, reinforcing their image of rigid ideologues.

Mr Clinton took stands only where he was sure of public support, condemning Republican cuts in environmental

programmes, demanding political reform to curb the influence of big money, and vowing to protect health insurance programmes for the poor.

Mr Dole's reply seemed directed primarily at Republican primary voters. Despite 35 years in Washington, he blasted "the elites in charge |who| don't believe what the people believe in", claimed America had been "hijacked by liberals", and defended the Reli

gious Right. He laid out his presidential platform, saying "we must rein in our runaway Government, return power to the people, reduce the tax burden restore justice and out faith once again in the basic goodness, widsom and self-reliance of our people".

Leading article, page 19

President calls Hollywood summit on screen violence

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has called a Hollywood summit at the White House to improve the moral content of Amerientertainment, thus wresting one of the most popular Republican themes from his opponents in

In his State of the Union speech, Mr Clinton said he would invite film and television producers, as well as those involved in the music industry, to meet in Washington next month and create a Hollywood free of violence and acceptable to young America.

"I want media companies to create movies. CDs and television shows you would want your own children and grandchildren to enjoy," he said. "I want them to work with us on concrete ways to improve what our children see on television."

In a deliberate attempt to steal the thunder from Robert Dole, the Republican currently Mr Clinton's chief rival for the presidency this year, the President gained an immediate response from senior executives at broadcast networks who said they could not turn down such an opportunity.

Last year Mr Dole launched a fierce attack on the moral fabric of Hollywood. which he said had shrouded America in nightmares of depravity, violence and sex. "A line has been crossed." Mr Dole said at a fundraising address in Los Angeles. "It is crossed every time sexual violence is given a catchy tune; when teen suicide is set to an appealing beat; when turn out

Citing the films Natural Born Killers and True Romance, as well as the music of Cannibal Corpse, Geto Boys and 2 Live Crew for their depictions of mindless violence and loveless sex. Mr. Dole had made particular

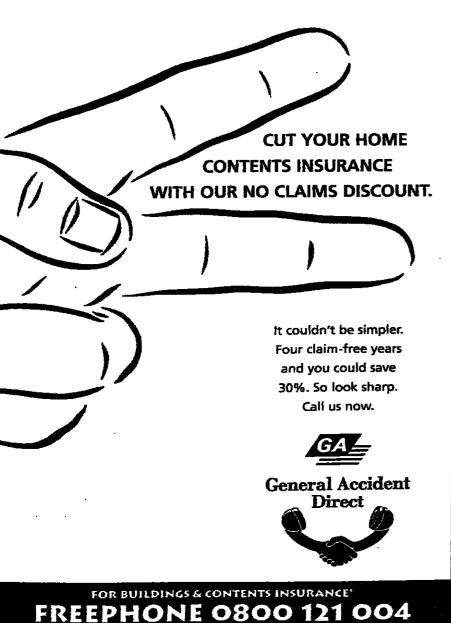
mention of the conglomerate Time Warner for its distribution of gangsta rap music.

The company has long been a target of attack from the Right for its production several years ago of the album Cop Killer, a violent rap against the police force by the black artist, (ce T.

Mr Clinton's campaign both in 1992 and this year is well supported by the liberal establishment in Hollywood. The President, who counts Barbra Streisand and Steven Spielberg as close personal friends, is likely to gain far greater support.

But TV executives were success of the meeting. One said: "Of course, we'll take him up on his offer. How can you ever turn down an opportunity to discuss an important issue with the President, But say we reach an accommodation with Bill Clinton, would that ever be enough for Bob





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he A

Beating back pain

MEDICAL

BRIEFING

Dr Thomas

Stuttaford

NEIL SUMMERS had been commissioned in the Royal Marines and was looking forward to life as a regular officer when his career was cut short by ankylosing spondylitis.

Ankylosing spondylitis is an inflammatory disease which attacks the joints of the spine, the sacroiliac joint where the spine joins the pelvis, and sometimes the larger limb joints. Very occasionally it involves other joints too. The inflammatory process is not confined to joints, as the eyes are affected in one third of all patients with ankylosing spondylitis, who develop iritis. More rarely, the disease

involves the heart, the aorta, and very unusually causes fibrosis in the lungs. Ankylosing spondylitis affects men three times as often as women and, as in Mr Summers's case, usually strikes when they are still young. The first symptoms have nearly always become apparent before the patient is 40.

The disease runs in families and attacks those who have a particular tissue type, HLA B27 positive. These patients are also liable to suffer Reiter's syndrome, which has many similar characteristics.

When Mr Summers, who is now 32, left the Royal Marines, he obtained degrees in hysical training and physiology before working in Japan. His back was giving rise to increasing pain and, as with many patients with ankylosing spondylitis, he found that his spine was becoming fixed, inflexible and increasingly bent.

While in Japan, he was struck by the Japanese habit of having a stretch break from the office routine. At an appointed time, the office supervisor rings a bell and all the staff desert their computers to have a good stretch, rather in the way a cat or dog will stretch in front of a fire.

Mr Summers started stretching himself and noticed that when he did so, his stoop became less pronounced and the pain in his back was eased. The natural tendency with ankylosing spondylitis, and many other causes of backache, is to lean forward as this usually lessens the pain. Traditional physiotherapy aims

maintain a straight back. Having discovered the value of stretching. Mr Summers's next ambition was to design a curved rack on which he could lie on the floor for a couple of minutes a day, so as to straighten out his spine. Once he started to use the back stretcher, he noticed that the pain eased, spinal flexibility increased and that he stood more erect.

Mr Summers's wooden back stretcher is now marketed in this country as well as in Japan, and is claimed to have helped sufferers with a wide variety of types of backache. The rack may look, Mr Summers admits, like an instrument of torture, but it is a well-designed and comfortable bed rest.

Although the back stretcher eases back pain for many of those who use it, others are inevitably left with discomfort of varying severity. These people may find relief by using a TENS - transcutaneous electrical ierve stimulation — machine. TENS tnachines supply tiny electrical impulses to subcutaneous nerves, creating impasses which block the transmission of messages conveying pain to the brain, so the patient's discomfort is relieved without drugs.

Another type of machine using electrical impulses is the X Pain device, designed by Dr Alexander Macdonald. With this machine, the electrodes are applied to the spine rather than the peripheral skin. One electrode is placed above the top of the shoulders at the level of the first thoracic vertebrae, the other on the level of the 10th to 12th thoracic vertebrae, just below the level of a bra strap.

The Macdonald X Pain has the advantage of giving longer relief from shorter periods of treatment. With repeated use, the pain-free period increases in length

• Details of the different types of TENS machine may be obtained from the National Back Pain Association, 16 Elm Tree Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 SAT, which also provides comprehensive advice on all aspects of back pain. The Macdonald X Pain machine is marketed by APR Medical UK, Castlegate, Clitheroe BB7 IAD (01200 444449) and the back stretcher by Enanef and Co, 63 New Inn Lane, Guildford GU4 7HT (01483 33276).

Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr in From Here to Eternity. Not only do women benefit from promiscuity but there is a biological case for affairs

In praise of infidelity

ar-room chat will never be the same. A new book prom-ises to revolutionise the way we think about sex in general, and in particular the cliche of the promiscuous. stud-like male and the more docile, faithful female.

In fact, female promiscuity and infidelity lie at the heart of sexual behaviour, according to the biologist Dr Robin Baker. a reader in zoology at Manchester University and author of a book published next month, Sperm Wars; infidelity, sexual conflict and other bedroom battles.

Not only do women benefit from a degree of promiscuity. but the book also makes a biological case for women having secret affairs. If a woman has a stable relationship but can become impregnated by a male with better genes than her regular partner, then she increases the chances of producing success-

ful children. Whatever women may say when they have an affair, they do all the things that make pregnancy more possible. They reach sperm-retaining orgasms, avoid the issue of

sex when they are most fertile. Sperm-retaining orgasms are crucial, Dr Baker says. They are not essential for conception but in Dr Baker's new scenario, orgasms are vital in mating with a success-

Leading biologist Dr Robin Baker tells Rachel Kelly that a desire to have secret affairs increases a woman's chances of producing successful children

How does he know? By reading a 1989 survey of 4,000 women conducted jointly by Company magazine and Dr Mark Bellis, formerly of Manchester University, and by more recent joint work analysing the orgasms and sperm intake of 11 couples over several years.

His research found that when a woman reaches orgasm, the entrance of her cervix dips down into the area at the top of the vagina known as the seminal pool. If it contains semen, then far more of it is likely to be sucked into her reproductive tract.

Having an orgasm at the same time as her partner, or immediately after him, increases the intake of sperm. With a regular partner a woman is more likely to reach orgasm first, so more of his sperm are lost in flowback. However, in an affair a woman's orgasm tends to be either simultaneous or after the man. sperm retention and con-

Moreover, she is likely to be impregnated by sperm of a higher quality. If a woman has sex with two men within a week, both of their ejaculates may be alive within her repro-

ception.

ductive tract at the same time. Which of them will fertilise any egg she produces will depend on the competitive

ability of their sperm. Thus the "sperm war" of the book's title. The sperm from rival males will compete to fertilise the egg first and prevent the other from getting there. The competitive edge of a male's sperm becomes a vital

> The sperm from rival males will compete for the egg

part of his overall reproductive ability and of his biological fitness. By provoking the sperm war by her infidelity, a fertilised by the fittest male. Her children will inherit their father's abilities so she will have fitter offspring.

Given the potential biological advantages of having an affair, why don't all women do so? Blood-group studies have

slow them down: they have a

shown that around 10 per cent of children are not fathered by their legitimate fathers, fig-ures which have been ensince 1991 and validated by the introduction of the Child Support Agency. Cheap DNA finger-printing was developed for fathers who

was theirs. Higher social status women with successful husbands are less likely to have affairs. In contrast, two studies in towerblock communities, one in Liverpool and one in the South East, show that 30 per cent of

questioned whether a child

children are illegitimate. The reasons are obvious. Higher status women have potentially more to lose by having an affair. They could be abandoned by their existing partner if he were to find out, or face possible aggression if he were to stay. In addition, all involved risk catching a sexually transmitted disease. But all women can benefit from a the advantages and none of the disadvantages.

The most hopeful implication is that the work of fertility clinics will be revolutionised. At present 10 per cent of men and women are sub-fertile and have problems conceiving.

sperm fight to fertilise the egg with some sperm designed to sacrifice themselves and destroy sperm from other males that may be in the woman's body — should help clinics understand more about the ejaculate," Dr Baker says. Fertility clinics find it difficult to identify fertile and infertile males. This could help."

Dr Baker is careful to avoid any moral conclusions. "I'm not saying whether it's right or wrong to have affairs," he says, "I'm not trying to provide a biological excuse for people who are having affairs. I am just seeking to explain people's behaviour.

affected him personally? The 51year-old academic lives with his partner. the writer Elizabeth Oram, in Manchestef and he has five children, three grown-up sons by his first wife, and two younger children by his sec-ond. I think that it has made me more cynical about people's behaviour.

*People might think having an affair is all about romance, but I tend to think, 'Well, actually, what you're saying is that you're trying to collect some better sperm from some-

body else"." Sperm Wars; infidelity, sexual conflict and other bedroom battles is published by Fourth Estate on

February 14, price £7.99.

Back Pain?

When sedation is a danger to asthmatics



worse when a patient is tense and anxious it always seemed reasonable to suppose that some form of sedation might help them, and lessen the danger of an asthmatic

Recent research, published in the British Medical Journal by doctors working at the McGill University in Montreal, shows that this is not so. Simple sedatives of the type which might be prescribed to help a patient through a transient crisis doubled the rate of respiratory collapse severely enough to endanger the life, or even to cause death, in the patient with asthma.

Even more striking was the effect of the major tranquillisers used in the treatment of schizophrenia or in patients who have drugs - such as Largactil and its successors were prescribed, the number of patients who were dangerously ill, or died, as a result of the asthmatic attack tripled. However, the use of antidepressant drugs did not affect the death rate in asthmatic

Epilepsy drug danger to unborn



THE foetal alcohol syndrome is well known. Women who are heavy drinkers and who have a baby may find that their child is born slightly mentally retarded and with. classically, a pixie-type face. Less well known is the effect occasionally seen of taking sodium valproate (Epilim) when pregnant. This drug is used

Taking it when pregnant can produce neural tube defects which give rise in the child to a characteristic syndrome, named the foetal valproate syndrome. The baby has an unusually high forehead, poor sight and hearing, a flattened nose and usually displays

extensively to treat many different types of

some mental retardation. General Practitioner magazine reports sodium valproate are taking court action against their family doctors, and another 45 against hospital specialists. The parents claim that they were not warned adequately of possible dangers to the unborn baby if an epileptic takes sodium valproate when she is

Sandy Bisp reports on the saving of Alice Plunkett's ear

lice Plunkett, one of A our most product won young riders, won our most promising against the odds in her first point-to point of the season at the weekend, even though her horse didn't come first. She was just happy to be riding again eight weeks after a fall in which her left ear was severed by her horse's hoof.

Alice had no idea what had happened. "A friend with me saw it happen. She just said 'you've cut your ear a bit', and I put her scared look down to the blood. I found out later that an ambulanceman had picked up my ear and packed it in ice. On the way to the hospital my neck was taped to the stretcher."

Alice then underwent a four-hour operation to reattach her ear at the Radcliffe Infirmary. Oxford, by Henke Giele an Australian plastic surgeon, and Tim Goodacre. a consultant. Dr Giele reconnected an artery a third of a millimetre wide at the back of Alice's ear to re-establish circulation before, as is customary in micro-surgery, drafting in the leeches. Leech saliva contains hirudin, a powerful anti-coagulant. As it feeds, a leech facilitates drainage until damaged veins can heal and takeover as the circulation is restored.

A cohort of 20 leeches, supplied by Biopharm, in Wales, sucked away at the ear while Alice's horse-riding

Healing habits of leeches



Alice Plunkett: riding again

friends helped her to overcome her natural repugnance by giving the leeches pet names. Becky Blandford. who had a bad riding accident herself a couple of years ago. was wonderful and visited me every day," acknowledges

"Others, like John Francome and Marcus Armytage. came too. I quickly got used to the leeches, but did scream when one fell on my nightdress, which was pathetic." The Radeliffe Infirmary

stores leeches in a fridge to

Return of the old hunks:

Harrison Ford in Sabrina.

Al Pacino and Robert

De Niro in Heat and

Read Geoff Brown's

Page 31

review of the new films.

Before leaving hospital she was told not to smoke and to cover her ear to protect it from extreme cold for the weeks it would take to heal. "The cold could send blood vessels into spasm, risking frost-bite. But even the really cold weather we've had hasn't

drained from me."

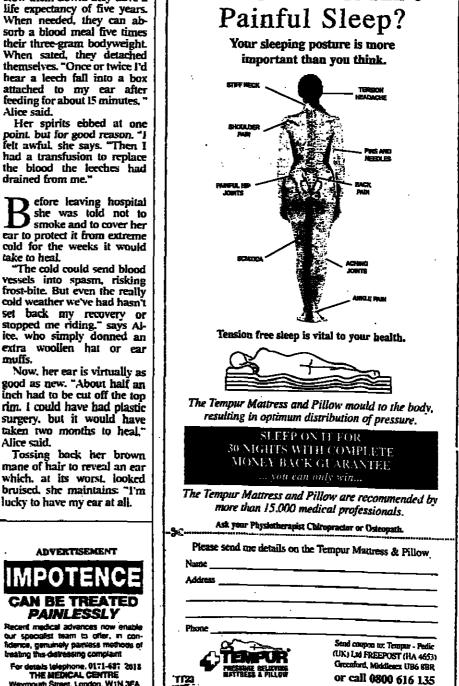
set back my recovery or stopped me riding." says Alice, who simply donned an extra woollen hat or ear muffs. Now, her ear is virtually as good as new. "About half an inch had to be cut off the top

rim. I could have had plastic surgery, but it would have taken two months to heal. Alice said. Tossing back her brown mane of hair to reveal an ear

which, at its worst looked bruised, she maintains: "I'm lucky to have my ear at all.

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So just what does make the Americans laugh?

• ohn Cleese is having to reshoot the final scenes of the sequel to A Fish Called Wanda. Quentin Letts explains the American obsession with happy endings

'Americans

want action

— words

have no

weight for

them'

MEMO from Mel Brooks to John Cleese: "Cut the words, mister, and add the sound of gunfire or smashing plates." That, says the veteran director of Hollywood comedies, is how to tickle the modern American filmgoer.

Cleese is no mean comic talent himself, but it is advice he may want to take after the rejection by trial audiences in Los Angeles of his new film, Fierce Creatures. They loved the first half, but when the Kevin Kline character was bumped off, and as the movie moved towards what Cleese calls his "fiendishly clever ending", the preview audiences stopped laugh-ing and became restive. As a result, Cleese and his cast must reassemble and shoot a new ending for the film before it can be released.

How can Cleese, veteran of Monty Python, Fawlty Towers and A Fish Called Wanda, to which Fierce Creatures is a sequel, have misjudged the comic balance of this film? Have American comic tastes changed? Can

Fierce Creatures be salvaged? Mel Brooks, reclining in his office in Los Angeles, says "yes" to the last two questions. Brooks, whose hits have included The

Producers. History of the World, Part One and Blazing Saddles, believes that American cinema has in recent years lost some of its intellectual edge. "You have to sugar-coat your message now," he says. "American audiences feel that if characters are only talking, nothing is going on. Words have no weight any more." Woody Allen is a brilliant exception, but his movies are small beer, financially.

America has no shortage of low country of mixed linguistic abilities and ethnic variety, the scope for subtle in-jokes is smaller than in Britain. In recent years there has been some appreciation of irony, thanks to the lip-curlingly sarcastic wit of Roseanne and Frasier on television, but Americans still grunt happily at stereotypes and

Roger Langley, a rather grandly titled humour-in-the-workplace consultant, from Maryland, says: "Guys like exploding lavatories, and women like puns and riddles. But the really crucial thing about American audiences is that they don't want a downer at the end of a film." It was even true when Boris Karloff made Frankenstein, says

Langley. "A scene where the mon-ster threw the girl into the water was too strong for test audiences." Mel Brooks had similar problems with his 1991 movie Life Stinks. Alan Ladd Jnr. then head of MGM, took a look at the ending and counselled a rethink. "He felt it was a little too negative, and he

asked us to change it before we had finished shooting," says Brooks. "I was happy to take his advice." Preview audiences, who sit with verdict dials at the ends of their fingertips, frequently make a nuisance of themselves. Some directors have questioned their independence, suspecting studio executives of packing them with

flunkeys.

Frank Capra shot five endings for his 1941 film Meet John Doe.

The preview audiences gave a mixed verdict, so Capra ignored them and chose his

> American cinemagoers have long had different tastes from Europeans. Dr Stran-Stanley gelove. Kubrick's black comedy about nuclear Armageddon, wowed viewers in Europe and in a few East Coast art house cinemas, but it left Middle America cold. Robert Sklar, the

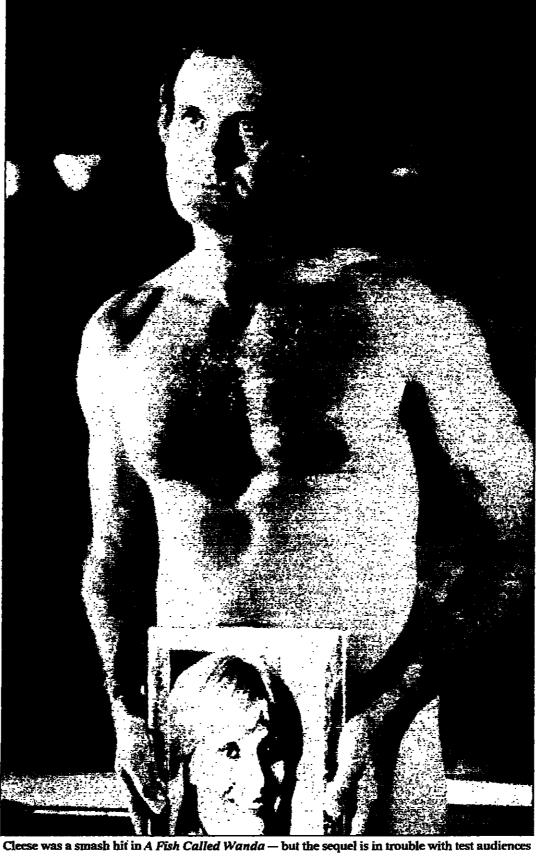
Professor of Cinema Studies at New York University film school (alumni include Martin Scorsese, Oliver Stone and Spike Lee), says: "British humour tends to be a little darker than ours. The blockbuster era, with its cardboard characters, has softened audiences even more. Sklar describes how, in 1948, Preston Sturges tried to make a joke out of a conductor who wants to murder his philandering wife. Unfaithfully Yours is a merry little film, but for America in the 1940s the joke somehow fell flat. America in the 1990s is proving similarly tricky, although this time the problem is lack of audience atten-

television channel, MTV, and the recent rash of explosive action Of his own handling of Fierce Creatures, Cleese has said, with candour: 'i nave deen working on this script for eight years and have still made mistakes which I did not realise until now. All I can say is that in this business nobody knows

tion and a constant demand for

noise. Brooks blames the music

The Kevin Kline character, an oily marketing executive, will, says Cleese, have to be resurrected in



some ingenious manner, despite an earlier demise in the film. Kline will soon be well qualified to play Lazarus in any forthcoming biblical effort: his Wanda character, Otto, also met a grisly end, only to

be revived. The regrouping of a now far-

flung cast for re-filming is a logistical nightmare (Michael Palin is incommunicado, somewhere in Borneo) and the cost may rise to £500,000 for each new minute of film footage.

To return to a piece of work you thought finished is to re-encounter Creatures — Take Two.

the despair of a schoolboy being presented at lunch with breakfast's unfinished plate of kedgeree. Matron used to say: "Come on, it will do you good." Cleese and his associates no doubt hone the promise will stand equally true for Fierce

The Italian woman, passion and Mr Hurd

"SIGNORA AGNELLI is very proud of her decor," one of the minister's senior aides whispered as we walked down the endless corridors of the vast foreign ministry on the outskirts of Rome.

Decor? We were there to discuss the weighty issues of European integration: the single currency, common foreign policy, enlargement. At 73, Susanna Agnelli, sister of the Fiat tycoon Gianni Agnelli, is Italy's first female Foreign Minis-ter and is in charge of EU affairs

for the next six months.

But Signora Agnelli has no fear of male officialdom. She grew up in the hedonistic atmosphere of Italy's unofficial Royal Family, and spent eight years at the foreign ministry as a senior official herself. If she wants to change the ministry wallpaper to startling sky-blue

regency stripes, that is what she will do, even if it clashes a little with the great Old Master paintings which adorn her walls. "Oh, it was so drab," Signora Agnelli says in the breezy style which is her hallmark. "This is so much more cheerful, don't you "Susanna Agnelli

is Italy's best hope," an experienced observer of the Italian scene told me when I arrived. She has

certainly survived longer than many expected; she was "fished out" of political retirement (her own phrase) just over a year ago by Lamberto Dini, the caretaker "technocrat" Prime Minister who succeeded the mercurial Silvio Berlusconi.

Susanna Agnelli

She has an air of slight hauteur, rather like a public-school headmistress. The impression is accentuated by her height; she is an imposing 5ft 10in, very tall for an Italian woman", as she observes. She is a handsome woman with an energy and style which belie her 73 years. In her memoirs she describes the "free love" which marked the early postwar years in her set, and she still has Latin passion, not least for tall and distinguished Englishmen.

She admits to having been "very fond" of Douglas Hurd when he was Foreign Secretary. She used to take walks with him in a romantic garden near Rome when he visited Italy. "I loved his sense of humour," she says, reminding me that as an Agnelli she had a British governess ("Miss Parker") and a somewhat British lifestyle. She with Malcolm Rifkind.

She can certainly match her European counterparts in experience as both politician and administrator. She was something of a left-wing rebel in her youth, professing admiration for icons of the Left such as Castro too doubt partly

upbringing); she became mayor of the seaside resort of Argentario in Tustany by crusading against local building rackets. She then became an MP, and rose to be both Senator and Euro MP.

But she is also an Agnelli. Her memoirs are entitled, with evocation of a lost world, Vestivamo alla Marinara (We Always Wore Sailor Suits). The sailor suits were from Bond Street. She was born a year after Gianni and remained close to him as he rose to become head of Fiat (which their grandfather founded), and thereby the uncrowned "King of Italy"

As teenagers at the family's Turin mansion and Riviera villas. she and Gianni drank champagne flirted in Monte Carlo. She still

speaks impeccable English in an ac-French as Italian. 'Never forget you are an Agnelli," was Miss Parker's injunction to her charges. Unlikely: the family owns newspapers, football teams and banks as well as whole industries.

In the heady postliberation she met the love of her life, Count Urbano Ratazzi, who was a law student. It was

love at first sight. They married almost immediately to the astonishment of their friends, had six children, and went to live in Argentina, but were divorced in

IT WAS after her return to Italy that she threw herself into local and then national politics, managing to stay untainted by the backhanders and bribes (tangenti) which have undone so many of her contemporaries. Nowadays Susanna lives alone in a one-bedroom flat in Rome full of English chintz. She also has a seaside house at Argentario which fills with children and grandchildren in the holidays. Unusually for a minister. she offers advice to the lovelorn in an "agony aunt" column in the magazine Oggi, but keeps her own private life private.

The only hint that she might feel her age comes with her assertion clearly deeply felt - that "time is precious, and must not be wasted". Giving a disarming if slightly wintry smile, she says she took as a compliment a reference I once made to her undisguised impatience with "tedious" EU meeting

"Why should we sit for 12 or 15 hours when we could achieve exactly the same result in three or four? It is extremely silly to suppose that if you stay until midnight you have somehow worked harder.

RICHARD OWEN

Scowling is back in fashion

who recently won the lovingly metred admiration of a woman poet, has now attracted attention to the very opposite end of his emotional range. As Tony Blair bravely tried to defend Harriet Harman from the dispatch box, Mr Prescott's face, granite-featured at the best of times, settled into what is being called the "scowl of the

Not since Medusa turned men to stone with a flash of her fiery gaze has so much damage been done with a single glance. Insiders have often talked of Mr Prescott's antipathy towards Ms Harman, but until now party loyalty has kept his true feelings under wraps. Even now he expresses nothing in words. It is all in the look - as loaded as the Mona Lisa's.

enigmatic.

Seventeenthcentury poets, the eyes were the soul, would have made much of Mr Prescott's persistent grimace. Indeed, Hamlet's Mousetrap was designed to trap into giving some-

thing away in his face. The expected scowl from Claudius

type-setting error did American comics of the 1940s announce: "Lawless men fear more than anything the terrifying sight of Batman's cowl." It was the glower, more than



his stepfather That Prescott face

Hamlet to kill him. Only by an unfortunate

righted wrongs. And one cannot help but remember York's words as Richard II faces his downfall:

"Even so, or with much more contempt, men's eyes/Did scowl on gentle Rich-No man cried 'God save him!" Is Ms Harman to go the way of poor

King Richard? It is perhaps particularly unfortunate for Mr Prescott. as a politician, that he did not live in the 19th century, that golden age of scowling. Anyone who wore less than the grimace was considered too frivolous for public office. And even in this century.

Winston Churchill would not have been the man he was without the famous frown. But the 1990s is a happy

clappy time. Tony Blair smiles so hard that like the Cheshire cat, the grin is often there for some minutes after the rest of him has gone. Pop group REM recently celebrated Shiny, happy people, and rave culture demands the wearing of a yellow smiling face - the scowl was thus not only portentous, but unfashionable. Above all, though, didn't

John Prescott's mother ever tell him that you shouldn't pull faces, in case the wind changes and you stay like that for ever? Does the Harman affair

mean that the wind has changed? Watch this face.

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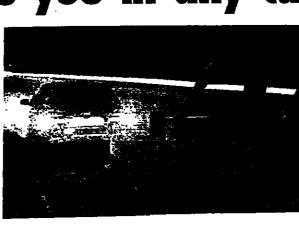
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A turning point for the Tories

Kenneth Baker counts the

victims of the Harman affair

This was the week when hope returned to the Conservative Party. Tory MPs, buffeted by opinion polls and defections, suddenly started to walk tall. The cheers that accompanied the Prime Minister's devastating and witty destruction of Tony Blair at the dispatch box on Tuesday were heartfelt.

In politics there are some defining moments: what follows them is different from what went before. This week we saw such a defining moment. For more than two years. Tony Blair has carefully crafted the image of a new, reformed Labour Party with high-sounding objectives and laudable motives. He almost got away with it. But this was the week when Old Labour shattered the new, and two years of

reform were stripped bare. This week showed that the Labour Party is still a snarling, jealous, vindictive pack of class-ridden bigots. A grant-maintained school for Blair's son was swallowed only be-cause of the prospect of office. But a grammar school for a Shadow Cabinet member's son made the party's gorge rise - John Prescott's pugnacious, contemptuous scowl

The casualties of this week begin with Tony Blair — there he stands, bat-tered but unbuckled. His party does not want to follow him on education the very subject which he says is at the heart of new

Labour's policies. Labour's tribalism has swamped the progressive soundbite. The soundbite man was at a loss for words. Indeed the Prime Minister, so often dismissed as mute and inglorious, drove a stake into Tony Blair's credibility when he said, "I want to be tough on hypocrisy and tough on the causes of hypocrisy" — the bitten was biting back.

The second casualty is Har-

for words

riet Harman, for she is going to remain in office. Tony Blair cannot afford to lose her, for he would then stand isolated, as a Labour Party member who has rejected the local comprehensive school. Harriet Harman is like Captain Ahab, lashed to the stricken body of Moby Dick. She, in an act of inhuman cruelty, has been given a suspended sentence, for she will be tortured for nine months and then rejected at the Labour Party

The third casualty is, unfortunately. Harriet Harman's son, Joe. I have little sympathy for a mother who, knowing full well how her party would react, exposes her son to such unwelcome publicity. He has become the guilty one who bears on his young shoulders the sins of his parents. Donald Dewar was forced to say that the boy should not be victimised. I think that many Labour activists at the grassroots across the country would be surprised to learn that children who did not go to the local comprehensive school were being victimised.

The fourth casualty is truth. David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, was twisting words to make a trap for fools when he said: "Of course we believe in parental choice, and that choice will not be distorted by tests or interviews." What this means is that there will be no distinction between a grammar school, a grant-maintained school and a comprehensive. Collective uniformity and not individual choice is still at the heart of Labour thinking. To adapt Henry Ford's famous dictum. "You can have any

school you want, as long as it's the same as the next one."

The fifth casualty is the "stakeholder" slogan. The parents of children who go to grant-maintained or grammar schools are stakeholders. They have a stake in the education of their children, but if the only choice is the comprehensive school provided by the local education authority, then the real stakeholder is the LEA itself. At the very first test, Blair's big idea is shown to be hollow, brittle and

The sixth casualty is the integrity of public life. The veil over Labour's sleazy morals has fallen away. And let there

be no doubt, this is a moral issue. It is Blair, the simply wrong to grab privileges for one's own children soundbite and then deny them man, was to others. at a loss

In politics, virtue is often eventually rewarded by seeing one's opponent make a mistake. Labour's mistake this week is huge. The Tories are divided

on European economic and monetary union, but that is an economic issue; Labour is divided on choice in education, and that is a moral issue. Economic issues are about the thinking head of a party. moral issues are about its soul. Labour taunts about a divided Tory party will now be thrown

Imost for the first time in three years, this epi-sode has allowed the Tories to go on to the attack. That is a lesson which the party and the Government should take to heart. They should not be out on the back foot by having to defend their own record again and again.

My advice to ministers is to tear up all those defensive briefs lovingly prepared by government departments and Central Office. Follow Danton's advice, when the French army seemed to be facing almost inevitable defeat. L'audace, L'audace, Toujours l'audace." On to the attack. Act, if you like, like an Opposition. Forget the shadow-box-

ing and aim to leave bruises. When the history of the next election is written, I suspect that people will turn back to the events of this week, and particularly to the Prime Minister's performance at Question Time, and say, "That was the turning point."

The author was Chairman of the Conservative Party.



We're sorry for all the distress, but we've done mothing illegal or immoral ... "

Mitchell's snub to Major

o the "peace process" stag-gers forward; once again a meltdown has been avoided. Why, though, did the Mitchell commission not resolutely back John Major's well-known stand on

There is a feeling in some quar-ters in Belfast that the evidence given by the RUC may have played a role in weakening the British Gov-ernment's position. If the Mitchell commission heard from the RUC that the British Government's insistence that at least some arms should be decommissioned by the IRA before any all-party talks, this evidence may have had an impact on the commis-sion's findings. But the real problem for the Government lies not in the apparent waiving of its preconditions - Sir Patrick Mayhew had already opened the door to this possibility but in the substitute confidence-

building measures now proposed. There is much noble assertion of peaceful and democratic principle in the Mitchell report, but it should be noted, in particular, that the reference to the need for all parties to "abide by the terms of any agreement reached in all-party negotiations" has taken the place of the much firmer statement of the principle of consent which was to be found in the Downing Street declaration. It quite likely that Sinn Fein will soon sign up at the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation in Dublin, in support of this rather more vague principle of

agreement. Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams has been spared the immediate embarrassment of having to accept that the present partition of the island has a democratic basis. To that extent, his leadership has been strengthened. But this is only a postponement of what will be for him an evil day. when he is forced to face the implication that the status of Northern Ireland cannot change without the consent of the majority of its people.

There are those in Belfast who believe that exactly the same thing has happened with decommissioning. It too is only postponed until the start of all-party talks. There is no doubt that the difficulties faced by Mr Adams have been eased, but only in the meantime.

In particular, attention should be paid to the notion in the report that The British Government is putting a brave face on a report which ignores

the Ulster majority, writes Paul Bew

this report

comes as

commitments to exclusively peaceful methods will have to be honoured. As it stands, Sinn Fein would claim it has already agreed to much of the Mitchell formula (the most pressing difficulty will be with the condemnation of punishment shootings and beatings). But the real problem lies not with the political wing of Sinn Fein, but with the IRA, and this is the followed by action

ment of threat and blackmail. There are other places where the Mitchell document is less decisive. The reference to the practice of "targeting" - the harassment of members of

to remove the ele-

the security forces, meantime for example - is not international body's report outlines two well known views. The first expresses the position of the British Government that "all parties [are] aware of the need of prior decommissioning before the ceasefires were announced and should not now be able to avoid that requirement". On the other hand, there is the claim of the former Irish Prime Minister

Albert Reynolds and of the Sinn Fein

leaders: "We were told that decom-

missioning of arms prior to all party

negotiations was not requested before the announcement of the ceasefires." The report continues: "We believe that each side of this argument reflects a core of reasonable concern which deserves to be understood and addressed by the other side." Now of course this does not constitute a resolution of the issue; which side is right here is a matter of easily ascertainable historical fact and public record, and it is the British Government. It can be argued that in

many places the commission had no

alternative but to fudge, but here it chose to fudge largely for the sake of placating nationalist amour propre.

But although Ulster Unionist MPs were irritated by this and on other scores, their response yesterday was carefully modulated. They cannot

have been delighted by the commission's stance, but they were hardly chie to significance of the word "hon-oured". The rhetoric has to be deputy leader, John Taylor, in his

constituency anticipated yesterday's For Gerry Adams, events quite precisely. The unionists, including the Democratic Unionists: Peter Robinson, have clearly learnt good news the lessons of the past. Over-emotion-al responses to the but only in the Anglo-frish Agree-ment of 1995 and

the framework doc-

served absolutely no purpose. This time, the unionists, like the Government, are determined to build on the

n the end it was John Hume who lost his temper in the House, but this should not detract attention from the risks taken by the Ulster Unionists. In Belfast, Ian Paisley Jr - in the absence of his father, who is in poor health after a trip to the Cameroons - angrily pushed the conventional Democratic Unionist Party line that the commission's report was a predictable betrayal of the unionist majority.

The DUP is currently at a low ebb in the polls, having fallen to a mere 7 per cent. But nobody should doubt its ability to regain support if the British Government were to call all-party talks at which some unionist chairs would unavoidably be empty.

In the modern history of Anglo-Irish relations, the British Government has quite deliberately avoided a

> by Edward Kelsey, who looks like Sean Connery's bank-robbing brother) tried to enlist the Home

> Secretary's support in saving Joe's eldest son Alf, a petty thief. "I

thought he might be able to do

something for Alf," rasped Kelsey

in his Borsetshire burr. "But he

THERE'S little chance that Peter

Cadbury is about to rejoin the Tory

party which he abandoned in a

blaze of publicity because of the

iust didn't want to know."

It's a crime

confrontational stance. Nevertheless, as an official said, "eighty-five per cent of the play lies with London"; the long-term historical and economic responsibility for the Province lies with Mr Major, as he eloquently affirmed yesterday.

In the House of Commons, Mr Major moved to recain the initiative.

Major moved to regain the initiative by promoting very much more warmly than he had done before the idea of an elected body. Crucially, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minis-ter, helped him by using restrained

language on this topic.

It now seems clear that the British
Government's view is that in the
absence of a first move on arms by the paramilitaries, the only other possible route to all-party talks is through the electoral process.

The truth remains, however, that the Government itself needs to do more in the field of confidence-building. It needs to discuss with the unionists much more frankly and realistically than it has in the past its broad vision of the political future forthe Province. If it can do so, the time won for the "peace process" this

week, will not be in vain. There are challenges for every one" — this was the vogue phrase of the day, as officials strove yesterday to put the best face on the Mitchell in Northern Ireland - 83 per cent according to the latest poll - have been asked to accept what they have hitherto rejected: talks before any decommissioning gets under way. "I cannot see how an election can be regarded as a block to progress," said

Mr Major. By supporting the election propos-al, the Prime Minister has made sure that the challenge is extended to the leaders of the Northern nationalists. The British Government will be reluctant to take an irrevocable decision, unless it sees the Northern nationalists' opposition to an election somewhat reduced.

The Ulster Unionists were at their most placatory yesterday, when they said that they have no intention of seeking the return of Stormont, or indeed any purely internal settle-ment. Mr Major seemed to be saying in the House that much will now depend on Mr Hume's capacity for generosity and flexibility. He was

Books, beer and passion Rachel Cusk on

judging the Whitbread Prize

The Whithread Book of the Year is a bit more fun than most other book prizes. Perhaps this is in its essential nature. Brewers, one feels, operate in a sphere as opposed in its friendly Friar-Tuckishness, its ethos of communality and conviviality, to the solitary peaks of artistic endeavour as it possible to be. Although this partnership of liquor and literature has had a destructive history, its endurance testifies to a fundamental attraction. But it is hard to get the boorishness of beer out of the Book of the Year. If Whithread knew anything about books, it surely would not line them up like so many beauty queens in a judging process by necessity unfair and by implication superficial.

In his prize-giving speech, Sir Richard Hoggart, the chairman this year of the judging panel, rightly found in favour of the brewers record on sponsorship. Whithread makes no claim to erudition: indeed, its only involvement is to do what it does best, namely administering large quanti-ties of alcohol in comfortable surroundings. The business of comparing things which cannot be compared — a biography with a children's book or a volume of poetry, a mature novel with a first novel — is harder to dispatch. According to Hoggart, the chairman of Whitbread, Sir Michael Angus, cheerily likened the competition to Crufts. That, perhaps, marks the point at which an innocence of literary politics becomes

a troubling disregard for it.

It is one of the difficulties of financial largesse, particularly where it touches nerves as acute as those of the literary sensibility, that it repre-sents a collision of irreconcilable interests. Without sounding ungrateful, the charitable impulse is hard to argue with. It is an act of selfarticulation on the part of the giver, yet writers, more than most, find it hard to surrender that privilege.

oggart's advice to us was to compare the books not so much with each other as with themselves. How far had each book fulfilled the requirements of its form? Which of them had surpassed these requirements, to reach the magical place where the form is actually being advanced before one's eyes? Was Salman Rushdie's The Moor's Last Sigh a better novel than Kate Atkinson's Behind the Scenes at the Museum was a first novel?

in the voluble (and highly partisan) rabble that was the final judging meeting, literary criticism just rolled up its sleeves and fought dirty. But the sheer luxury of discussing books with a fantasy-football-style team of forgotten. There can be few conversetions more dignifying than those about books; it is one of the great gifts of writers that they teach us how to talk about them.

Julian Critchley spoke movingly and at a mature politician's unbreachable length — about Gladstone; Candia McWilliam was illuminating on the subject of Rushdie. Simon Tait gallantly defended the neglected outpost of children's litera-ture, although we all had sorrowfully to admit that here it was the form itself, rather than Michael Morpugo's practice of it, which was disadvantaged. Oddly, poetry was similarly suspected of slightness, despite being the noblest form of all.

t is here that the philistinism of the Whitbread seemed most ap-parent, as if, for want of any better criteria, the judges merely set to weighing and measuring the volumes rather than discussing them. In fact it seems to have been the intimacy of poetry rather than its insub-stantiality which denied it the brewery's blaze of glory; added to which, a love for poetry arises partly out of familiarity and repetition, giving an unwonted feeling of rawness to the unfamiliar. Later, though, when one of Bernard O'Donoghue's poems was read out, the whole packed dining

hall was rapt in silence. The two categories which bear most comparison - novel and first novel - amassed between them enough similarities to be pitted against the stentorian eloquence of Roy Jenkins, rather than each other. Like The Moor's Last Sigh, Kate Atkinson's Behind the Scenes at the Museum is an epic family saga, a great comic novel, a book alive with stories. In both of them we found the joyful articulation of the modern age: in Gladstone, a polished monument to the past. Hoggart advised that staple of democracy, a secret ballot, from which Atkinson's book, to his, our, and later her complete surprise, emerged the clear winner.

It is hard to award such an accolade to a writer at the beginning of her career, for fear of interfering with the natural course of her talents. It is hard, too, to explain why, while Rushdie and Jenkins at their peak are producing work of whose magnificence we can be proud, a relative novice should be permitted to command the field. Books, however, as Whithread inadvertently but reliably reminds us every year, do not make easy competitors; and it is left to the judges merely to be persuaded, by whatever means the writer can devise, to fall in love. Where Kate Atkinson's novel seduced us, her P·H·S Afkinson's novel seduced use rivals were just good friends.

Edward 'Joe Grundy' Kelsey

Government's pitiable record on law and order. His Hampshire home was burgled again yesterday, and he lost £15,000 of chattels. Cadbury was screaming blue murder. "I would have shot the thieves if I had been there. This is just another example of the Government's failure to provide sufficient funds for local policing."

Kitted out

THE PRINCESS of Wales may have lost her staff but she has found friends in the world of Lycra leisure wear - she has agreed to endorse the kit she wears on her daily jaunts to the gym.

The Princess has been wearing the leotards and shorts manufactured by Fit Kit, a Northamptonshire company run by Sharon and Andrew Leeding, who refrained from spilling the beans. They went

to Kensington Palace to discuss their new range on Friday and in a one-hour meeting with the Princess, she said she would be happy for them to publicise that she wears their thigh-gripping shorts. Their logo will now be visible, but Andrew refuses to say whether any money has changed hands.

• Does Granada know what it is taking on? The executive chief at a Forte hotel in Ascot, the Berystede. will be wearing a lucky charm during the National Chef of the Year competition. "I'll be wearing my wife's underwear for good luck in the finals." Iain McCormack says.

Worthy prize

TWO MEN in Virginia Bottomley's tile are locked in combat. The Heritage Minister's husband, Peter, is lighting her special advis-er. John Berkow, for a new parliamentary seat.

Berkow versus Bottomley takes place in the blue-rinse constituency of West Worthing. Both men are on the shortlist to be selected as the candidate. But Bottomley is the chicken, running from his marginal Eltham constituency in the desperate hope of a safe new perch. The scrap could be unsavoury.

Despite the appalling mess in which Labour now finds itself over education, the two are looking at a constituency with a notional majority of nearly 20,000 - a prize worth baring the knuckies for. The constituency's shortlist of six

also includes Michael Fallon, the former Education Minister, and Michael Stevens, who is running from his Shoreham seat. On Monday, local activists - a tight-lipped bunch who primly refuse to discuss the matter - will be choosing the final three. The odds are that Bottomley won't make it without his wife's support. But where will her loyalty lie?

 Could the cantankerous columnist Sir John Junor be considering a return to his holed warship, the Sunday Express? Sir John was

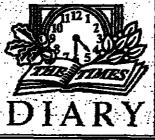
hotel with the paper's Editor, Sue Douglas. A supposedly discreet venue, the Howard was heaving with newspaper executives, not least Sir David English, Junor's boss at The Mail on Sunday.

Bard debt

THERE WILL be a shadow across supper tables tonight as Scotsmen wash down their haggis and neeps with a few wee swallies to mark



was looking for staff



Burns Night. The International Burns Festival, a year-long celebration of the bicentenary of the bard's death, is descending into farce and penury.

The festival's chairman disap-

peared last year. Plans for a global Burns Night supper and appearances by Pavarotti and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa have been scrapped. And now the Bank of Scotland has scotched a scheme for a Burns credit card, which would have raised £300,000 for the increasingly lacklustre event.

Bad apple

MICHAEL HOWARD worked his way round his heroes in The Archers at the 45th birthday party in London of the Borsetshire soap on Tuesday, professing himself a reg-ular listener. It was he, after all, who in 1994 intervened in the case of Susan Carter, who was jailed after trying to protect her brother from the police.



The Princess of Wales

But he gave short shrift to the old curmudgeon of the series, Joe Grundy, who has been embroiled recently in an illegal cider-making operation. At the party, Joe (played

3.45

415 %

75.7



NATURAL SELECTION

New Labour needs new policies for survival

This week has been the most testing for Tony Blair since he came to power. It has exposed the divisions in his party, the speed with which its new-found discipline can disintegrate, and the incoherence of its education policy. But the force with which Mr Blair faced his critics - and those of Harriet Harman - has also given a glimpse of his personal tenacity under pressure.

Politicians differ in their responses to difficult times. Some, such as Neil Kinnock, crumple almost visibly in the face of a storm. Others, such as Margaret Thatcher, rise powerfully to the occasion. Who can forget her electric performance in the House before the election that forced her out of Downing Street? Mr Blair, who seems actively to court comparison with the last Tory Prime Minister, has something of her inner steel. Even according to his critics, the speech that he gave to his parliamentary party yesterday was one of his most effective.

His intention, it seems, was to set a precedent for future political debacles, in or out of office. He was not prepared to allow his party to force a perfectly competent colleague out of his Shadow Cabinet. Nor was he going to let the Tories hound her out. One of the factors that propelled his MPs back towards a sullen unity was the comparison that Mr Blair drew with John Major's propensity to buckle under pressure when his colleagues were in trouble.

Immediate danger has been averted. Ms Harman spoke with some composure in the health debate, and the Shadow Cabinet rallied round her But the wounds will take much longer to heal in this peculiarly human political saga. Most unforgiving will be those MPs and activists who were faced with the same educational dilemma for their children and yet opted on principle for less adademically successful local schools.

Ms Harman's many opponents lost no chance to speak out against her. Labour's carefully nurtured unity was fractured for 48 hours - an indication of what is likely to

happen in Government when unpopular decisions have to be taken. And the public has seen how thin is "new" Labour's professed attachment to consumer, rather than producer, interests.

For what greater evidence could there be that Labour is out of touch with ordinary parents than that a member of its own leadership team could not abide by its policy? If parents want selection in education for their children, they should have it. It should not be the business of central government to lay down every law.

Labour has already conceded a small element of parent power in its promise not to abolish existing grammar schools unless parents of prospective pupils want this to happen. Here lie the seeds of a policy that could rid Labour of its incoherence over selection. For, after Ms Harman's actions. Mr Blair cannot continue to pretend that his current policy makes any sense.

If Labour is serious about decentralisation, it should allow parents in every education authority to decide periodically for themselves whether they want comprehensive schools or selection. What better way is there both of offering them a stake in their children's education and of wooing the middle classes back into state schools in the South East? Some areas will opt for one system, others for the other, providing the diversity that most educationists agree to be a good thing. Worries about secondary moderns being deserted by good teachers could be remedied by allocating them more money per pupil, following the example of "magnet" schools in America.

The Labour Party may not be in the mood for such radicalism in education policy. But what the Harman row has done is to make Labour MPs face up to the fact that many inner-city comprehensives are abysmal and that something has to change. If the debate on education becomes more realistic within the party, then something more than Tory smiles will have emerged from this wreck.

THE STATE OF THE PRESIDENT

Clinton spoke more about himself than the nation

The State of the Union address is one of the great events of the American political calendar. It has traditionally been the opportunity for Presidents to mobilise Congress and public alike in favour of new legislative programmes. Mr Clinton's address on Tuesday evening was rather different in tone and ambition. Instead of policies for the present it concentrated on themes for American society and its future.

This philosophical tone was deliberate. Over the last few weekends dozens of historians and political scientists have been ushered into Sunday evening supper with Mr Clinton. All have been given five minutes to offer their views on the country and its challenges. The President then led them in discourse that frequently lasted late into the Washington night.

The product of all this thinking was unveiled in his text. The President recognised that 'the era of big government is over': this is almost certainly true. Instead America faced an uplifting future, "an age of possibilities", that progress had ushered in. In this Mr Clinton echoed themes associated

with his chief antagonist, Newt Gingrich. From this lofty terrain the President then informed fellow citizens where he stood on the issues. The ongoing budget dispute was largely ignored. Instead we learnt that Mr Clinton favoured lower teenage pregnancy rates, 'character' values in education, school uniforms, homework conducted with the television off, clean air and world peace. He was militantly opposed to violence in the media, drugs, disturbed families, gang-war-

fare, pollution, and ethnic conflict. In reality, Mr Clinton's list of platitudes reflected hard political reality. With Republicans in firm control of both branches of Congress there was little point in offering detailed programmes. He knew that if he campaigned as a big government candidate there would be minimal chance of re-

election. The Clinton strategy for 1996 is clear. He will endorse everything popular that his opponents pass and, as in the present budget crisis, sit out the difficult and unpopular decisions which, curiously, this particular set of politicians seem willing to take. He will portray himself as an abovepolitics politician, standing resolutely for the shared values of all Americans.

In that sense the State of the Union was his campaign opener. His strategy may well work. Ronald Reagan's 'Morning Again in America' re-election drive in 1984 was similarly themeless yet delivered him 49 states. However, it also produced a second term that was disappointing compared with the achievements of his first. That may not matter much to the President, especially if. as seems likely, a Republican Congress is also re-elected this year.

Nonetheless, this speech and its strategy carry real risks. Mrs Clinton's impending visit to the Whitewater Grand Jury is part of those dangers. Through inept public relations and appalling conduct in the whole controversy the first couple have created a scandal that may erupt in uncontrollable fashion. It is difficult to run a campaign based on shared values when one of the most sacred of these - personal honesty has been brought into public question.

More fundamentally, Mr Clinton and his advisers may have misjudged the mood of Americans. The Republican takeover of Capitol Hill in 1994 was based on the most detailed and programatic election strategy in the history of congressional contests. Whoever emerges as the Republican nominee, while he will doubtless enjoy using the character issue against the Clintons, will speak in similarly detailed terms as Senator Dole did in his official reply on Tuesday. The lines are drawn between two strikingly different political visions. Americans seem destined for a fascinating presidential battle.

RIN TIN TIN'S TIN

Cats are gourmets, but give your dog a bone

It's war! It's war! As we report today on page 4. British supermarkets and independent manufacturers are baring their fangs, pawing the litter furiously and growling like fun at each other over the major matter of pabulum for pets. As the fur flies, and the cans of compressed meat whizz through the air. British pet-keepers are set to reap a lipsmacking reward for their mogs, pooches, rabbits, pot-bellied Vietnamese pigs in a muddle, ocelots and budgerigars.

The consumer — in this case, happily, vicarious — has never been more spoilt for choice: and equally, the consumer's pet has never been more spoilt. Winston Churchill may once have sat the poodle Rufus, bibbedup for dinner, on a Persian rug, but the modern Churchillians leave no bone unturned. There is now food for dieting dogs, dowager dogs, fidgety kittens and hamsters that go gloop in the dark. There is even separate food for budgies and canaries, though how the little whistlers can tell the

difference remains shrouded in mystery. Yet the main battle - the Somme, if you like, of the petfood world - is being fought over the four-legged eaters. The days when dogs were fed bowls of mush, made by boiling offal for hours, are now something only

grandma can recall. Dogs now eat from cans, boxes, tubes and cartons. They eat jellied chunks, meat lumps, flavoured dollops, coloured pellets and fragrant biscuits. Why, some of it looks good enough for us to taste: pass the haggis-flavoured poochpaste, dear girl, it's Burns's night.

with a cat's inflated sense of its own worth. But cat-keepers are, as a rule, richer and more finicky than those who live with dogs: they are readier to pay the extra whack for a ravioli-for-cats. In tussling for the right to fill the bowls of the nation's cats, the petfood people are quite alert to the money that can be made from feline hunger - and from the soppiness of cat-owners.

But in the midst of this tug of war - said to be worth over a billion pounds a year - let not even a tin-opener to grapple with.

Catfood is more expensive, commensurate "gourmet" tin of rabbit shavings, or zander

us not forget that the happiest pets, whether dog, cat or white rat, are those that are fed on scraps from the kitchen. The next time little Caesar is hungry, consider whether he would not prefer a nice bowl of chopped sausage, carrots, bread and milk. That, for an animal, is gourmet. After all, one man's swill is another pet's feast ... and there is

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

side. The protesters at the site of the

Newbury bypass do not have an ex-clusive appreciation of these issues. But sometimes a compromise with

our natural environment is necessary.

vation of a pleasant environment are heavily dependent on a prosperous

and dynamic economy. British indus-

try is dependent on efficient and eco-

nomic transport and distribution if it

is to compete with its European neigh-

Newbury is a strategic bottleneck -

with the vast majority of the local com-munity suffering the consequences and wanting an early resolution. The

consultative process has been pursued

to the utmost and every aspect of the

The decision has been made and the

road should be built without further

The Freight Transport Association,

Sir, You appear to imply (report, January 17) that businesses in New-

bury are against building the bypass. In fact many, particularly the larger

It is hardly surprising that the pro-testers are being rewarded with most

of the media coverage, when the daily

events around this town are little

more than a co-ordinated circus act. This corner of Berkshire and Hamp-

shire is being turned into a rural en-

vironmental slum by the hordes of un-

wanted visitors whose only intention

is to cause trouble. The great majority

of us would like to see the bypass com-

pleted and the area returned to a nor-

North End, Newbury, Berkshire.

Styles of protest

From Mr Alasdair Mitchell

Hermes House, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

wasteful and costly delay.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID C. GREEN,

From Mr J. A. Castle

ones, support it.

mal existence.

Yours sincerely.

JACK CASTLE.

The Grove,

Director General,

January 19.

problem considered long and hard.

Comfort, prosperity, and the preser-

Inflation dangers of 'short-termism'

From Professor Emeritus Alan Day Sir, It is disturbing that as influential and distinguished an economic com-mentator as Anatole Kaletsky is advocating (Economic View, January 18) expansionary policies which, if imple-mented, would yet again repeat the

follies of "boom-bust". He is probably right in identifying that public opinion is increasingly re-alising the disadvantages of a slow-inflation economy and forgetting those of rapid and accelerating inflation. It is, however, the duty of sophisticated commentators to inform the public of the real choices rather than to accept its understandable

tendency to short-termism.

Three things have to be accepted.

One is that average real incomes cannot, in the long run, rise faster than productivity — optimistically 2.5 per cent a year in the UK. Secondly, they can rise faster than this for a time, by using up some of the margin of spare capacity. Thirdly, no one today knows how to run a major industrial economy without some such margin — in the UK broadly around 8 per cent unemployment. Any attempt to push ex-pansion of demand beyond this is likely to lead to steadily accelerating inflation — ie, not merely to faster inflation but to ever-faster.

For a time, the majority of the population could undoubtedly be made to feel better-off if these three factors were ignored. To the credit of the Government it is doing its best to learn the lessons and to ignore calls to adopt short-termist strategies. To Mr Blair's

credit, he appears to agree.
If either were to follow Mr Kaletsky's policies of "several consecutive years of 4 or 5 per cent growth" most of us would feel good for a time, but the erosion of the margin of spare capacity would lead to rapidly accelerating inflation and so unavoidably to sharp increases in taxes and interest rates - repeating the unhappy consequences when another eminent economic commentator (Nigel Lawson) was given his head.

Yours faithfully, ALAN DAY, Chart Place, Chart Sutton, Maidstone, Kent. January 19.

BBC chairmanship

From Dr J. M. Wober

Sir, John Wilkinson (letter, January 15; also see letters January 11) rightly points out that in the current circumstances it will be felt that the new chairman of the BBC is a political appointee; the strains arising from this will disserve both the public and the BBC.

A way out of this difficulty would be to re-establish the governors outside the BBC. They would have a role sim-ilar to that of the independent Television Commission vis-à-vis Channels 3, 4 and 5, in which the responsibilities of the body, informed by its staff and research unit, are to the public via Parliament instead of, as now, being a duplicate alongside the existing board of management facing the public as BBC insiders.

The "outed" body would be financed (as also should the ITC) by a tiny fragment of the licence revenue; this would show that it and they are essential parts of the mechanism protecting public service broadcasting.

Yours sincerely, MALLORY WOBER (Principal lecturer), School of Media Arts and Communication. Bournemouth University. Poole House, Talbot Campus. Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset. January 15.

Fogbound airports

From Lord Berkeley

Sir, On January 17 you reported onehour delays to all flights at Heathrow, due to fog on the previous day. This must have been a minimum figure.

I was booked that day on the BA shuttle to Glasgow. The 1415 was cancelled due to fog and and we finally got on a plane at 1630, to be greeted by an announcement that, now we were all on board, the captain had applied for a take-off slot and there was a 90-minute delay; rather more than the one hour quoted. At this stage, I jumped plane, wishing we had been told the truth about the problems and that I had gone by

These delays were apparently not due to problems with take-off or landing but to difficulties of aircraft ground movement, which is still visual - and if you can't see the end of your wing it must be difficult seeing the next plane! Oh yes, and the runway lights also failed. The general view of passengers and staff that I met was of absolute chaos, both in the airports and on the roads around.

With capacity at Heathrow due to increase dramatically if Terminal 5 comes into operation, there is an obvious need to have a foolproof ground-movement system for aircraft in fog and a full range of new public transport links in place before it opens. Otherwise, this week's chaos will, sooner or later, be repeated on a much grander scale.

Yours. TONY BERKELEY (Public Affairs Adviser, Eurotunnel), House of Lords. January 18.

Support for Newbury bypass

From Councillor Simon Melville

Sir, Mr Adrian Fisher (letter, January 19) got it wrong when he said: "These self-appointed environmental pressure groups ... lost the argument at Newbury after 20 years of lobbying and ... public consultation procedures." They didn't take part in it.

I read with increasing anger the let-ter from Simon Lyster et al (the heads of the Wildlife Trusts, Greenpeace UK. Council for British Archaeology, World Wide Fund for Nature - UK. Friends of the Earth and Royal Socie-ty for the Protection of Birds) on the same day.

Not one of these organisations ap-peared at the public inquiry in 1988. If they had a point to make they should have taken part in the democratic public consultation process. The pub-lic inquiry looked at more than 30 different route options, lasted many weeks and several hundred submissions were made either in person or in

Newbury can only solve its local traffic problems once the through traffic has been removed from the town. The bypass currently under construc-tion will achieve this and bring relief to the environment of Newbury itself. The sooner it is completed, the better.

Yours faithfully. SIMON MELVILLE. Councillor, Burghciere Ward, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Civic Öffices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire. January 19.

From Mr George Darwali

Sir, A depressing aspect of this dispute is the sheer waste. Caring for the countryside requires manpower and money, both of which are being squandered in protests and countermeasures. Meanwhile, an estimated 80 per cent of our small woods are unmanaged, with serious implications for rare species, like the dormouse, at Newbury.

If just 100 able-bodied participants (on whichever side of the protest) were to lay hedges instead, they might restore to vigour, before it is too late, over one mile of deteriorating hedgerow per day. The bonus for landscape and nature might soon outweigh the impact of a bypass which many will wel-

Yours etc. GEORGE DARWALL 116 Bradenstoke, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

From the Director General of the Freight Transport Association

Sir, No right-minded person or organisation should fail to cherish the beau-

Occupational health

From the Director General of the British Occupational Health search Foundation

Sir, Your report (January 16) of Judge John Stephenson finding for a group of coal-miners wishing to pursue claims for industrial injury against British Coal for vibration white finger (VWF) draws attention to the overall issue of occupational ill-health.

VWF and other occupation-related diseases account for astounding levels of financial cost and personal misery, estimated in the UK alone to affect two million people every year, to be responsible for up to 25 per cent of all absences from work (or 13 million lost working days) and to cost the equivalent of 5 per cent of all UK company

VWF is a distressing physical illness suffered by many past and present users of vibrating machinery. It is one of several occupational illnesses into which research, sponsored by this

ALASDAIR MITCHELL, 50 Northumberland Avenue.

Sir, While contrasting the Govern-ment's willingness to defy Brussels over a drug for gamebirds, but not live animal exports, Leonora Digby

Smith (letter, January 18) might like to

ponder the apparent effectiveness of

reasoned argument in comparison

Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

with violent protest.

Yours faithfully,

foundation and others, is currently

being undertaken. Repetitive strain injury, noise-induced hearing loss and now VWF have achieved high levels of recognition, but other occupational hazards such as asthma, eczema, musculoskeletal disorders and, increasingly,

stress, are equally serious. The general wellbeing, health and safety of employees are now fundamental objectives of all conscientious employers. With the support of a growing number of companies this foundation aims — through improved knowledge, education and screening
— to minimise or eliminate risk, to overcome many aspects of work-related sickness and to make tomor-

row's workplace safer. Yours faithfully, DAVID McWILLIAM. Director General, British Occupational Health Research Foundation, 9 Millbank, SW1. January 19.

Hospital future

From the Chairman of Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow

Health Authority Sir, The plans for Queen Charlotte's

and Chelsea Hospital to build a unit at Hammersmith Hospital and combine with the latter's maternity unit (article, January 16; letter, January 19) are intended to protect and enhance Queen Charlotte's.

Many less prestigious maternity centres now offer accommodation which is more modern and comfortable than Queen Charlotte's.

By moving onto the Hammersmith Hospital site Queen Charlotte's research opportunities will be enhanced.

As seen on ... From Mrs Kathy Stevenson

Sir, Far from being a matter for praise and congratulations (report and leading article, January 22), the policy adopted by the National Trust (and others) of using the buildings and locations that "star" in film and

television to bolster their income through the tourist industry should in fact be of great concern. It is alarming enough that people

can frequently only be encouraged to read works of literature once they have had a visual image firmly implanted in their minds, thus depriving them of the pleasure of intimacy which only their own imaginations can bring to these works; but increasingly the

tackle complex problems and bring important benefits in the NHS and internationally. The plan has the strong support of

This will increase the opportunities to

medical and other senior staff of both Queen Charlotte's and Hammersmith Hospital. They recognise that this change is needed if the pre-eminence of the hospital's services, teaching and research are to be maintained.

Yours faithfully. ECCLES of MOULTON, Chairman. Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority. l Armstrong Way, Southall, Middlesex. January 19.

the "new marriage" you refer to - are becoming ever more hazy.

Escapism is one thing, but losing sight of the reality of our historical and literary inheritance is another.

Instead of protecting this inheritance, the National Trust is in effect creating theme parks: surely a task better left to Disney?

Yours faithfully. KATHY STEVENSON. 74 Kensington Park Road, Notting Hill, WI). January 22.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

Data protection rules at fault

From Dr Brian D. Keighley

Sir, I cannot be the only representa-tive of a small organisation who is infuriated by the three-yearly demand from the Data Protection agency for a fee of £75 to continue registration. I understand totally that there needs to be regular income for fulfilment of statutory functions, but it is patently unfair for my medical practice of two doctors to pay the same unified fee as major companies or large govern-

ment agencies. The DP registrar, Elizabeth France, and her predecessor, have been unable to implement reform in the shape of a stratified fee because of flaws in the primary legislation conferring the agency's powers. However, in July 1995 the EU General Data Protection Directive came into force and fresh legislation must be enacted in each member state within three years of

that date. This gives the UK an opportunity to change the arrangements so that my practice will not be charged the same fee as Marks & Spencer or the Ministry of Defence. I believe such a change would be welcomed by all small organisations, the registrar herself, and all those interested in fairness in the application of a necessary charge.

Yours etc BRIAN D. KEIGHLEY, The Clinic, Buchanan Street, Balfron, Stirlingshire. January 14.

Auld and true

From Mr Alistair Sharp

Sir. Robert Burns, a prolific letter-writer, would surely have been de-lighted that the Royal Mail's special set of stamps being issued on January 25 to celebrate his work are prompting

letters to The Times (January 23).

The Royal Mail recognises the fact that Burns was not the originator of the song, Auld Lang Syne. Probably the earliest version of the song, Auld Kyndnes foryett, was published in

However, no version that comes close to Burns's has ever been found, so it is generally agreed it should be attributed to him. The letter to George Thomson (September 1793) does make it clear that Burns took the words down from "an old man singing", as your correspondent, Mr Mitchell. says, but virtually every line was reworked. Ironically, however, the opening line used on the 60p stamp, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot". is one of the few which remained un-

changed. The concept of the set of four stamps is to use the first lines of works made famous by Burns, to illustrate the diversity of his legacy. By reworking a traditional song Burns created what has become a universal anthem, and we think it is fitting for the song to be featured on a stamp which has an

overseas postage rate. Yours faithfully. **ALISTAIR SHARP** (Head of Philatelic Marketing).

Royal Mail, Finsbury Square, EC2A INL. January 23.

Snowboarding princes

From Mr Robi Sonderegger Sir. Snowboarders here in Klosters

were most impressed that the Prince of Wales and Prince Harry broke away from the tradition of skiing to try snowboarding ("All aboard for the new sensation". Weekend, January 13). As their instructor that day I would dispute that "snowboarders were appalled" that they did it in ski boots.

It is true that most experienced snowboarders wear soft boots, but I and many other professionals urge most beginners to start with hard boots or ski boots.

At that level the difference is practically unnoticeable, and hard boots offer beginners more support, more control and less risk of ankle injury. Leaning forward on snowboards is one of the hardest things for beginners and the design of ski boots can help with this.

The ski boots of the Prince of Wales hardly hindered him from picking up the sport. I was most impressed at his confidence and posture.

Riding snowboards which, contrary to your report, can go much faster than skis, requires guts and a sense of adventure, especially for the not so young. I give the Prince of Wales and his incredibly fast-learning son (who was also wearing ski boots) great praise for their performance.

Thank you, and very best wishes, ROBI SONDEREGGER, Ski and Snowboardschule Saas. Landstrasse 15. 7252 Klosters Dorf. Switzerland. January 19.

Back soon?

From Mr Norman E. Bagshaw

Sir, My geography teacher used to say that the sirocco returns every year. As a loyal customer and shareholder of Forte, I look forward to Sir Rocco's return to the hotel scene.

NORMAN BAGSHAW. 59 Clement Road, Marple Bridge, Stockport, Greater Manchester. January 23.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK January 24: The Queen. Honorary Air Commodore, this morning visited Royal Air Force Marham and was received by the Station Commander (Group Captain John Proadbenti.

Her Majesty mer station person-nel and their families and local schoolchildren before opening the new Aircraft Refinishing Facility. The Queen afterwards attended Reception for All Ranks and

civilians in the Sergeants' Mess and honoured the Station Com-mander with her presence at Luncheon in the Officers' Mess. This afternoon Her Majesty observed station personnel carrying out exercises in response to a

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 24: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edin-burgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening held a meet-ing at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Past President, the Lord's Taverners, later attended the Umpires' Dinner at the London Hilton. Park Lane.

Birthdays today

The Rev Professor G.W. Anderson,

theologian, 83; Mrs Cory Aquino, former President of the Phil-ippines, 63: Sir Tom Arnold, MP, 49; Mr Raymond Baxler, writer

and brnadcaster, 74; Viscount Blakenham, 58; the Most Rev Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of

Cashel and Emly. 57: Vice-Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, 83: the Earl

of Coventry, 62; Miss Emma Freud, broadcaster, 34, Sir Paul

Girolami, former chairman. Glaxo Holdings. 70; Mr Brian Hayes,

Deputy Commissioner, Metropoli-

tan Police, 50: Lord Hiffe, 88: Professor G.E.R. Lloyd, Master,

Darwin College. Cambridge, 63; Sir James Mellon, diplomat. 67;

Sir David Nicholas, former chair-

man and chief executive, ITN, 66;

Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, 63: Mr William O'Brien, MP, 67: Air

Commodore A.A. Reed, former

director, RAF Nursing Services, 66: Mr David Shattock Chief

Constable, Avon and Somerset, 60: Mr Tom Shebbeare, director, the

Prince's Trust and the Royal

Jubilee Trusts, 44: Miss Angela

Thorne, actress, 57; Professor Edward Ullendorff, former Profes-

sur of Ethiopian Studies, 76: Ad-

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of

the British Olympic Association, will attend the Midlands division

dinner for the British Olympic

appeal at the Sports and Social complex of Vauxhall Motors, Lu-

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron

of the Pattenmakers' Company.

will attend the annual dinner at the

attend a reception given by the

British College of Optometrists at

Guildhall, at 7.15, to mark the

granting of a Royal Charter of

Lord Goold. President of the

International Corporate Identity Group and Chairman of Court.

Strathclyde University, was the

at the House of Lords to mark the

launch of ICIG. Mr Clive Chajet

and Professor Stephen Greyser of

Harvard Business School also

Mansion House at 7.20.

The Duchess of Gloucester

ion, at 7.30.

Incorporation

Lord Goold

Luncheon

miral Sir Peter White, 77.

Missen, Middle Warden. Institution of Mechanical

Mr Charles Betts delivered the annual Thomas Lowe Gray lecture yesterday at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Mr F. Chris Price, president, was in the

Chartered Accountants

The Hon Peter Brooke, CH. MP. presided at a dinner of the Coningsby Club held last night at the Carlton Club. Mr Jeremy the committee, were the hosts. Mr Max Hastings. Editor of the Evening Standard, was the guest of honour and speaker.

Uppingham School The Chapel Choir will perform the Durulle Requiem in Westminste Abbey on Sunday, February 4, at

Today's events The Queen's Life Guard mounts at

Horse Guards at 11.00.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 24: The Princess Ruyal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, today visited the 1st Battalion at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Hampshire. Her Royal Highness this after-

noon arrived at Royal Air Force Aldergrove and was received by the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (Sir David Fell). The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this

evening attended a Private Appeal Dinner at Hillshorough Cast KENSINGTON PALACE January 24: The Princess Mar-garet, Countess of Snowdon, Pa-

from, Inday visited London Lighthouse, Lancister Road, London, WII, for the launch of the programme of events to mark its tenth anniversary year. YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE January 24: The Duke of Kent. Vice-Chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, today presented the British Chamber of Commerce Scroll of Appreciation to Mr Paul Ceuvorst at York House. St James's Palace, Lundon SWI.

Lectures

Professor Henry Roseveare deliv-ered the Sir Lionel Denny lecture, sponsored by the Barbers Company, at the Museum of London last night. Professor Donald Barltrop. Master, presided, as-sisted by Mr R.R.C. Bloomfield. Upper Warden, and Mr A.J.B.

Dinner

Mr J.M. Renshall. Master of the Chartered Accountants' Company, assisted by Mr W.S.C. Richards, assisted by Mr W.S.C. Richards, Senior Warden, and Mr G.H. Kingsmill. Junior Warden, presided at the winter dinner held last night at Drapers' Hall. Sir David Walker, the Senior Warden and Mr Daniel Hodson also spoke. The Town Clerk and Chamberlain, City of London Corporation, and the Masters of the Solicitors', Master Mariners' and Upholders Companies were among the

Coningsby Club

5.30pm. Former pupils and other friends of the school are welcome to attend. Tickets are not required



Trafalgar Park, once under threat from dry rot and developers, will become a venue for rehearsal and concerts

Country house reborn as home of opera

By MARCUS BINNEY ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE country house a grateful nation gave to the family of the hero of Trafalgar has been bought by an opera impresario. Michael Wade plans to use Trafalgar Park, near Salisbury, as a centre to nurture young singers and musicians after they leave

Mr Wade said: "My plan is to encourage companies to use the house for their annual weekend retreats and to sponsor public concerts. This way the sponsors will meet the singers and musicians which they rarely do and ticket prices will be kept down.

Mr Wade wants to create a 250-seat concert hall in the north wing and eventually to

DOZENS of dead babies,

found among the ruins of a

Roman villa, may have been

victims of an ancient epidem-

ic. Anaemia and malaria are both possible causes of the deaths, which occurred 1,500

The villa, at Lugnano in

Umbria, was built in the 2nd

century and abandoned in the

3rd. Two centuries later its

an infant cemetery, according

to Professor David Soren of

the University of Arizona and

"Forty-seven children were

buried amid the partly col-

lapsed walls of five rooms,"

they say in Archaeology.

Twenty-two were foetuses,

probably miscarriages, eigh-

teen were newborn, six were

four to six months and one

buried in old wine amphorae.

others on reused roof tiles.

Infant mortality was probably

25-30 per cent in normal times,

Some of the babies were

was two or three years old."

his wife Noelle.

years ago in central Italy.

vest the house in a music trust. An inaugural concert at the weekend by Opera Interludes in the rococo hall was attended by guests including Sir Edward Heath. Richard Baker and Jilly Cooper. On Nelson's death in 1805.



Child cemetery tells grim tale

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent

and would have soared during

Premature infants appear

to have been buried with little

or no care," the Sorens say. "Romans believed that child-

ren who died before nine days

should not be lamented or

buried with great ceremony."

Most of the babies seem to

have been buried within a

short period, perhaps only a

tern of interment, with single

bodies being followed by

groups of up to seven, "leads

us to believe that a few deaths

led to the creation of the

Then more babies died or

were miscarried: an epidemic

that first struck a few infants

and then spread rapidly, kill-

ing many and causing women

to miscarry. We will know how the adults were affected

when we find their cemetery."

the burials may have been

sacrificed in a ritual intended

to calm evil forces: in Roman

DEATHS

Puppies found with some of

cemetery", they say,

epidemics.

Wade: hopes to create

his immediate heir was his elder brother the Rev William Nelson, who succeeded him as Duke of Bronté and was created Earl Nelson of Trafaigar. The gift of Trafalgar to the Nelson family in 1814 parallels the grant of the royal manor of Woodstock to the Duke of Mariborough and the Stratfield Saye estate to the Duke of Wellington. After the ruinous expense

of building Blenheim Palace at Woodstock. Parliament shied away from providing a grand new mansion for either Wellington or Nelson and instead purchased the Standlynch estate south of Salisbury, with an imposing mid-18th century pink brick house with large flanking wings in the manner of the architect

According to Country Life: "No lovelier situation could

times the bereft mother was

considered unclean, and the

child's soul a dangerous force.

A raven's claw and a toad

found with other children may

have also been intended to

Study of the bones has

shown traces of porotic hyper-

ostosis, a response to anaemia.

But malaria was widespread

in the 5th century AD - and

Burnt honeysuckle seeds in

the cemetery support the the-

sis that malaria was the killer.

These suggest that the epidem-

ic took place in summer, the

peak season for malaria. The

herb could have been used in

prove our malaria hypothesis

with present technology," the Sorens say, "Yet it is clear that

something terrible happened to those Umbrian infants that

summer in the 5th century."

☐ Source: Archaeology 48 No

There may be no way to

ward off spirits.

Italy until the 1950s.

have been chosen." Pronouncing the name of the house in the same way as Trafalgar Square in London raises eyebrows in Wiltshire where the gar rhymes with car. After the Nelson family sold Trafalgar in 1948, the house was separated from the surrounding estate and left with only seven acres of land. The north wing was eaten up by dry rot and developers were seeking permission to build in the grounds when Mr Wade bought the house late last year.

Proposing a vote of thanks at the inaugural concert. Sir Edward Heath recalled: "My love of opera was born when I first saw Carmen in Paris aged 13. In the next box was a very beautiful lady whose shoulder strap slipped a little further with every dramatic turn in the plot."

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, London, 1540; Robert Boyle, chemist, Lissmore, Co Waterford, 1627; Joseph Lagrange, mathematician, Turin, 1736; Robert Burns, poet. Alloway, 1759: Sir Francis Burdett, politician. 1770: William McGillivray, naturalist. Old Aberdeen, 1796; John Arbuth-not Fisher, 1st Baron Fisher. admiral of the fleet, Ceylon, 1841; William Somerset Maugham, nov elist and dramatist, Paris, 1874; Virginia Woolf, novelist and critic, London. 1882; Wilhelm Furtwäneler, conductor, Berlin, 1886; Witold Lutoslawski, composer, Warsaw, 1913.

DEATHS: Robert Burton, author of Anatomy of Melancholy, Oxford, 1640; William Shield, composer, London. 1829; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer. Rydal, Cum-bria. 1855: Frederic Leighton. President of the Royal Academy 1878-96. Kensington, 1896. King Edward III acceded to the

throne, 1327. The League of Nations was founded, 1919.

Legal appointments John Graham Boggis, QC, and Fergus Irvine Mitchell to be circuit judges, assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit and the South stern Circuit respectively.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.R. Hastilow

and Miss L.S.K. Pride

Mr V.C. Ives and Miss R.M. Teesdale

Gloucestershire.

Mr N.P. Storer and Miss C.E. Dove

Church, Virginia, USA.

Mr W.D. Symington and Miss J.P. Booth

The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Captain R.G. Hastilow, CBE, RN,

and Mrs Hastilow. of Liss.

Hampshire, and Louisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.W. Pride of

Stone in Oxney. Tenterden, Kent.

and Miss R.M. Teesdate
The engagement is announced
between Vaughan, elder son of the
late Mr and Mrs Lewis Ives, of
Poole: Dorset, and Rosalind,
second daughter of Mr and Mrs
John Teesdate, of Whitminster,
Charactershire

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Dr and

Mrs John Storer, of Blewbury, Oxfordshire, and Carrie, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Dove, of Falls

The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr

Mr J.C.D. Ash and Miss H.C. Briggs The engagement is announced between Jolyon, son of Mr Brian Ash, of Reading, and Mrs Marie Ash, of East Sheen, and Hilary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Briggs, of Eynsham, Oxfordshire. Mr R.P.C. Bridgeman

MARTIN BEDDALL

and Miss A.M. Moncaster The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Bridgeman, of Harpended, Herdordshire, and Alice, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Moncaster, of Layer Marney, Essex

Mr J.E. Buckley and Miss E.K. Pybus The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and

Mrs Roger Buckley, of Willaston, Wirral, and Kate younged daughter of Mr and Mrs William Pybus, of Throwleigh, Devon. Mr D.N.S. Chapman and Miss C.R. Brodie

The engagement is announced between Neville, son of Canon and Mrs Derek Chapman, of Sceles-combe. East Sussex, and Charmian, daughter of the late Mr Stuart Brodie and of Mrs Gillian Brodie, of Little Hedgeholme, Co Durham.

Mr N. Cox and Miss K.R. Secker The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Professor and Mrs Antony Cox. of Wensley, Derbyshire, and Kitty, daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Secker. of Iver, Buckinghamshire.

Dr D.A. Cruse
and Mrs J.C. Latter
Dr Denis Cruse of Haileybury in
Hertfordshire and Mrs Julia
Latter (nee Tibbs) of Lamberhurs
in Kent are delighted to announce
that they will be receiving in April

that they will be marrying in April. Mt P.R. G迎 and Miss S.M. Keane The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr David Gill and of Mrs Kenneth Smith, of Melbourne, Victoria, and Susan, daughter of the late Mr John Keane and of Mrs Keane, of

and Mrs D.A. Symington, and Juliet, daughter of Sir Christopher Booth and of Dr Lavinia Booth and of Dr Loughridge. Mr C.J. Wilkins and Miss M.S. Hamilton The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mrs Claire Wilkins, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Madeleine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stewart Hamilton, of Hollow Meadows,

Mr P.S. Wollocomb and Miss S.L. Harrison The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Martin Wollocombe, of Quito,

Ecuador, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Harrison, of Itchen Stoke Mill. Alresford, 3

Marriage Mr R.A.D. Broadhead and Mrs J.H. Smith The marriage took place in London, on January 24, 1996, between Anthony Broadhead and

Jill Smith. (née Proudlove).

Church news

The Rev Robert Bashford, Assistant Curate, Galleywood, St Michael and All Angels (Chelmsford): to be the incumbent, Clapham (St Albans)

The Rev Julia Butterworth, Team Vicar, Whitstable St Andrew (Canterbury): to be also an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev Quentin Chandler, Assistant Curate, Goldington (St. Al-bans): to be Minister of St Peter's, Rushden (Peterborough). The Rev Jeremy Clark-King, Cu-The KeV Jeremy Clark-King, Cli-rate, Ledbury parish church (Her-elord): to be part-time Carate, Great St Mary's Church, Cam-bridge, and Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge (Ely). The Rev Dr Michael Cooke, NSM, Christ church, Beckenham: to be

Priest-in-charge, St Lawrence, Seal and St Margaret, Underriver The Rev Dori Dawes, Assistant Curate, Watford, St Mary: to be Priest-in-charge, Dunton w. Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth (St

The Rev Canon Christine Farrington, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Great, Cambridge to be Vicar, St Mark's, Cambridge and continue as Diocesan Co-Director of Ordinands and Women's Min-

istry (Elv). The Rev Gordon Fisher, Vicar, Marton-in-Cleveland (York): to be Rector, St Peter and St Paul, Kettering (Peterborough). The Rev George Fryer, Priest-incharge, St Peter's, Walsden: to be also Priest-in-charge, St Michael

and All Angels, Comholme

The Rev Brendan Giblin, Assistant Curate, Tadcaster w. Newton the-Forest w. Holtby and Warthill

The Rev Penelope Graysmith. Assistant Curate, Cannock Team Ministry: to be Assistant Chaplain. Stafford District General Hospital The Rev Keith Hale, Priest-in-

charge, Tankersley and of Thurgoland and Wortley: to be Vicar, Tankersley, Thurgoland and Wortley (Sheffield). The Rev Noelle Hall, Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Sittinghourne and Assistant Director of Post Ordination Training (Canterbury): to be also an Honorary Canon of

Canterbury Cathedral. The Rev John Hargreaves, Assistant Chaplain General, HM Prison Service: to be Rector, Stone St Michael (Lichfield).

The Rev Glen Hocken. James, South Leigh (Oxford): to be Assistant Curate. St Michael, Boldmere (Birmingham). The Rev Christopher Hugher

Team Vicar, Wombourne Team Ministry: to be Team Rector, Wombourne Team Ministry. The Rev lan Johnson, Curate,

Evington, Leicester: to be Assistant Priest, w. special responsibility for Foxon and Gumley; and Substitute Chaplain to HM Prison. The Rev David Lavender, Method-

ist Member of the Central Telford Team Ministry: to be Churches Development Officer and Ecumenical Officer, Central Telford Team Ministry (Lichfield).

BMDS: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

the one who is to bep Holy Spirit". John 1 : 33 (REB).

BIRTHS BAINTON - On January 23rd in Oxford, to Annabel and John Vernon Bainton, a son. DALRYMPIE - On January 18th, to Janey (nie Morris) and Hew, a daugher, Lydia Jane Diana Harstinn, a sister for Here, Mayde and for Hero. Hewie and Theophania

Trisophania.

DAVIES - On 23rd Jametry
1996 at Queen Charlotte's. In
Ameta and Lloyd. a son.
Harvey Jackson Paul.

HERLITZ - On January 20th
Lift The Bertinest Hoesterl.

for Coessor.

MULEATT-JAMESZURSCHMIEDE - At The
Portland Hospital on
January 20th, to Nicole and
Mark, a daughter, Danielle, a
sister for Duncas. sister for Duncan.
O'CONNOR - On January
17th 1996 at The Portland
Hospital, in Debbis and Dez,
a beautiful son, Jacob Lewis,
a brother for Jordan.
PARHAM - On 22nd January,
to Kasta usée Gedroyt') and
Philip, a son, John Castinir.
PARKER - On January 19th,
to Jessica (née Harris) and
Adrism, a daughter, Georgia,

Adrian, a daughter, Georgia, a stater for Eather and SANDERSON - On 6th January at The Portland Hospital, to Damaris (née Massen-Taylor) and Tim, a son, Alexander Edward

Roban, a brother for Hugh and Maximilian. SIMPER - On January 20th in North Yorkshire, to List thee Botarrol and Suphen, a son. Benjamin James. Botarrol and Stephen, a son, Benjamin James.
Senipper, On Jamusry 7th, in Wortestershire, to Autor Unie Hilton) and Richard. a daughler, Luxy Georgina, a sister for Clives.
SWEENEY - On January 22nd at The Portland Hospital. 10 Adrian and Hospital. 10 Adrian and Many. a son, Jack Adrian Many.

Many, a son, Jack Adrian Gibson, a brother for Thomas WILLOUGHERY - On January 20th 1996 in Dunchteshire. To Frona and Guy. 8 designer, Eritres, a sister for Lordes.

DEATHS ARMES/O'BEIRNE BARNES/O'BEIRNE
Midded Marjorie (née Milla).
widow of Henry Barnes
(O'Berne), on 23rd January
peachtaity at bone aged 92.
Sadiy adssed by her loving
family. Funeral at
Cambridge Crematorium
2.16 pm on Monday 29m
January. R.I.P.

BATCHELOR - Mary Frances (née Gilbert) of Ham Common. Surrey. Suddently but peacefully in hospital on 19th January aged 55. Dearly have modeled to many. Funeral at St Andrew's Church. Ham Common. Monday 29th January at 2m. Denations. If desired, by the British Heart Foundation. BLACK - Jean (Die Innes-Ker

on January 22nd suddenly after a short illness. Beloved wife of Barry and dearly loved monter or Nicola and grandmother of Alastair. Cremation privage. Memorial SUSBY - On 20th Jamus,

On 20th January
1996 peacetuly in hospital.
Ernesi Busby, M.B.E.,
LM.S.S.A. Okon), aged 96
years, Belowed brother of
Doris and Vera. Funcrel
Service at Eastbourne
Crematorium Fundly Chapel
on Wednesday 31st January
at 12.45 pm. Family Chapel
on Wednesday 31st January
at 12.45 pm. Family flowers
only, douations # desired to
Historic Churches
Preservation Trust. only, donations if des Historic Chi Preservation Trust.

CLARKE - On January 4th, Nancy inte Cadmant, widow of Colin, mother of Peter and Jame. Cremation has taken plane. Letters to Miss Janet Clarke c/o Smith, Whitingham, Solicitors, 1 Dysert Bolidings, Nantwich, Chapitre CW5 SUP.

CURRY - On 13th January 1996 at St Charles Hospital after a protracted fitness. Edda Joseffe Therese aged 66 years, formerly Senior Secretary at the BEC. Designer of the late Contise and Resy Curry. Funeral Service at West London Cramaturium. Harrow Read. London Wilo. on Wednesday 7th February 1996 at 2.15pm. Enquiries to John Nodes Femeral Service. 181 Leabroke Grove. London Wilo. tel: 10181) 969-1819. CURRY - On 13th Jan

DEATHS DAWSON - John Trever
"Getty" on Tuesday 25rd
January, much leved
husband of Margaret Rober
of Chystopher and Timodity;
grandfather of Eather.
Ursula. Jeanet and
Fitzwilliam. Funeral St
Edward's Church, Keyner.
11.30 am. Wednesday 31st
January, Enguiries, William
Collins F/D. tel: (01444)
871518.

EVERGLEY - On January 19th. Eleanor, eldest daughter of the late William Pinder Everslay, Requiets Mass to be beld at English Martyn Guurch. Mitchain Luse, Swife, on Thursday, 1st February at 9.30am, followed by cremation at the South London Crematorium. Rowan Road. Swife at 11am. Denations, if desired. to St Marry's Home c/o Dowsett & Jenkins Pimeral Directors, 7 Sugnsy Pimeral Directors, 7 Sugnsy Mit Road, Streetham. Swife 2UE, (0181) 769-3181.

FARMELL - On January 19th 1996, Angela, much loved wife of Michael, Cremation for family and friends at Golders Green Crematorium on Monday 29th January 1996 at 3 pm. No flowers please but donations to Elderly Accommodation Counsel, 46A Chiswick High Road, London Wa 1SZ - the charity founded by Angela, Date for manucrial service will be amounted bett.

Fift - Anne Lady Fitt,
January 23rd, 1996, died
pencetully with her zamily
after a long illness. Beloved
wife of Gerry, and loving
mother to Jean, Elleen,
Pritts, Reity and Garakime,
lette missed by her some-lalette Vincent, Paul Stephen,
and Majthas, and by her 12
adored grandchildren. She
was the light of all our tives. and maintain, and by her 12 adored grandchildren. She was the light of ah our lives, may perpetual light shine spon her. Requisem Mass at the church of St Terria, Astiora. Kent at 10 am on Friday January 28th. Internets of the church of St Lawrence. Godmersham, 11.30 am.

DEATHS JOSEPSON - On 23rd January 1996 Elizabeth (Betty). Church service on Monday 6th February at Al Sainth Church, Blackhesth, 10sm, followed by cressition at Lewisham Crematorium. 11am, No flowers by request Donations to St Christopher's Hospice, Enquiries in Franch Chappell & Sons, 4 Lee High Road, Lewisham, Sel3 SLQ, tet, 0781) 852-2936.

Monday 22nd January 1996. in Heiston, Cornwal, Formerly of Crockerton, Warminster. Willshire. Husband of Pam (decessed). A devoted father and grantizates to Kein, Jacke, Nile. Joanna and Lisa. Cremetion in Truro, then return to be with his beloved wile in Horningsham, Wilnshire.

Wilhere.

MANCHESTER - Andrea.
Widow of the 11th Duke of
Manchester. on January
21st. suddenly at home.
much loved mother and
grandmother. Private
cremation, 26th January.
Natrobi. Kehya. UK
Menorial Service to be
amounced. MOSENTIAL - John William On 22nd January 1996 pencetally at house Bill. dear husband of Daphne and father of Verily (Jeffery). Max and John and a much loved grandfaller. Fuseral at the Parish Church of St Mary Machaleue. Externor Mary Magdatese, Richmond. on Friday 2nd February 1996 at 12 noon, No Bowers please but any donations may be sent to Princess Alice

Hospice, Esher c/o T.H Sanders & Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, TW9 2NA. MICHQLS - Kenneth John Heastey. On January 24th, peacethily at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. Beloved tushend of Pamela and dearly loved inther, grandiather and friend, Private family funeral, Thankagiving Service to be amounted later.

OLIVER - On 20th January 1996 and 77. David Wave Oliver, Architect, intely of Beth. Funeral at Hayrounbe Crematorium. Beth. on Monday 29th January at 11sm.

PROTHERO - Dorothy Nelle, on 19th January 1996, at Blackheath Hospital aged 63 years. Beloved wife of Arthur, much loved by 86 her family and many friends. Funeral Service at Lewisham Cremenytum. Verdent Lame. Catford 556 on Friday 2nd February at 12 noon. Family flowery only. Donations If desired to National Equestrian Defence League Equestrian Defence League Equatrian Defence League or Cats Protection Langue may be sent to Co-operative Functed Services, 172 Well, Half Road, Etham, 529 66R, tel: (0181) 860-1677.

REED - Without (Wift), studdenly on Sunday morraing 21st January 1996, aged 74 years. A leving and greatly level insubant, intherend grandfather, Fuperal Welheaday 31st January 12 noon at 87 Pour's Church, Chichester, By request flowars from ingnediate lamily only. Donations in rememberance of Wiff for St Joseph's Hostel for the Homelen. Chichester and the British Heart Foundation may be sent of 67 A. Holland & Son. 3 Jubilee Road, Chichester Poil 1XJ, tel: (01243) 782965. REED - Wildred Harold (Wild)

REIO - Rosemany Mace (Miv), widow of LL Col, J.W. Raid (9th Lancers), placefully on January 21st, Family (meral to be arranged. Ne flowers please but dometions. nowes please buy densitions, if desired, to North of England Children's Cancer Research c/o Prof. A. Craft, R.V.I., Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NEI SOT.

EUSERIDGE - Col. Charles Edward Rustriage. O.B.E., R.E.M.E. on 22nd January at Meaguve Perk Hospital, Tauston, in his 94th year. As officer and a petitleman, Beloved husband of Elma and a beloved father and grandfather. Financia Sarvice at the Parish Church of St. January. Family flowers only please, doubtons if degree for the Army Benevolent Fund c/o Anthony James Funeral Director. 30 Lion d'Angert. Ford Road. Wivelisconhe, Somersel.

DEATHS NYLAGO - Nancy Pameia of Finstall, Bromsgrove. On January 24th 1996, in her Sist year. Belovad wife of the lake Liewellyn Winiar and dear mother of David and Jennie. devoted grandmother of James. Heldi, Marie, Jugette and Marianne. Funeral at 15.00pm Thostay January 30th at St Bartholomew's Church. Tardebigge. pr. Bromsgrove, followed by private cremation at

private cremation at Redditch Crematorium at 2pm. Donations to the Imperial Cancer Research. hoperial Cancer Research.

288608 - Careth. et. 273 Scdn

RAF and Kent teacher.
formerly of Maestey.
geocafely aged 72 at home
on 20th January. after long
litness bravally borne.
Beloved Rusband of Kay.
Bether of the Mark. Rush.
Paul and Helen. Pumeral et.
All Saints. Leose, nr.
Maidsune, on Thereday 1st
Pebruary at 12.45 pm. No
flowers by request, densitions
to RAF Benevolent Fund. 67
Portland Place. London W1.

STARLEY - Burt, On 22mg Jamusy s very special and much loved husband, father and grandfather. Service on 24th Janusty at 3.30 pts, South London Comstery, Streetham Vale.

DEATHS

Portand Place. London W1.

\$88TH - Edine Mayer Corrien.

on 22nd January 1996.
peacetelly at home. Beloved
wife of Robert Greaville.

Sadily missed by her
grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Funeral
Service at 87 Jude's Church,
Englished Green, Monday
20th January at 11.30 am
robswed by cumulital in
Englished Green Comelay.

Any Storel cributes to F.
Harthon & Son. let. (01784)
422163.

432163.

SOWRY - Paracia Madeicine
Alberton, on January 21st,
at Salboury District Hospital,
after a short Monan, Beloved
mother of Disma and Julian
and grandbucker of Jumes,
Peter and David, Funeral
Service at Salisbury
Crumstortum on Friday 2nd
February at 11.40 am.
Family flowers only.
Douadloss, if desired, to The
Salisbury Howers only.
Douadloss, if desired, to The
Salisbury Howled. C/O Case
& Partners, 22 Churchileide,
Road, Salisbury.

TAYLOR - Major General TAYLOR - Major General Reynell, on Monday 22nd Jamary 1996, saddenly st home. Very much loved husband of Hosemary, father of Mark, Hearletta and Simon and grandfather of Louist and Surnaby, Private crenation. followed by Memorial Service at St James Parish Chunch, Halle, Taunton, on Friday 2nd Fabrusy et 2 pm. Family Rovert only but Genations if wished for the R.N.L.I. may be sent cro Anthony James Funeral Director, 50 Lion of Agers. Ford Road, Wiveliscombs, Somerael.

WARRENG - Kurin, suddenity at home in lineringham or. January 23rd 1996. Cremelion 2 pm on Tuesday 30th January at 57 Faith's Crematoriom, Norwich (near Airport). Familly flowers only. Donations in Kurin's mamony to Age Concern.

Willis - Prances Monica (pie Sealy), wife of the late Anthony Armstrong OBE MC Author and Playwright pro-August man Pagwinghi: peacebilly at Ludshott Court N/H on Junuary 19th 1996 in her 96th year. Dearty loved by her 3 Children, 10 grandchildren, Cremation at Children on Impact water More on Japanery 300

> **FUNERAL** ARRANGEMENTS

FELLOWS - Howard Alwan.
The Service of Thankagiving
will take place at AE Gaints
Church. Sproughton, Saffolic
on Monday Japhary 25th at
3 pm. Family flowers only
please, but it desired
donations towards
respiratory research payable
to Dr. Russell Hall may be
sent to Fartiting. Singleton &
Hastings, 650 Woodhridge
Road, Ipswitch, IP4 4PW.

CLAPHAM COMMON Prof per-son. Mon-Fri only, own room at batters, share let, sensy less. 4260 pep. 0171-720 5867. CLAPHAM SOUTH Room is craffely her. 5 mins tabe, 42 ped com. 0181 6784015 (west) FLATMATES London's foremos Got 1970) Professional de glasting service. 0171-589 549 OTTHEY ROOM in comfortable the for lady non amount, close to transport and shope, £35 years. Tel: 0181 786 6280. SW7 City prof to share that gwa room and ensuits. £110 year peg. Tel: 0171 576 1836.

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BAYSWATER har flat, all mode come most be seen, £450 pcm. Td: 0171 229 8522.

SERVICES PLUMP PARTHERS Nations Define Agency. It you as plump of areas a study per ner ring 01362 716909. SITUATIONS VACANT

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OBITUARIES

Eric Briault, CBE, Education Officer of the Inner London Education Authority, 1971-76, died on January 14 aged 84. He was born on December 24, 1911.

ERIC BRIAULT'S career in education led him from teaching to inspecting to administrating, and culminated in five years, during the early 1970s, as Education Officer of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA). Those who met him were struck by his intelligence and cool logic. But beneath this he was a warm man, and he promoted the needs of handicapped children and the careers of numerous young men and women. His influence on teaching stretched far beyond the confines of London.

Briault was a visionary, but while he was unafraid of controversy, and actively pursued his ideal of the large comprehensive school, he never failed to offer consultation. He played a central role at the London County Council and ILEA from the 1940s to the 1970s, during what some have described as the golden age in London's educational story — one marked by the harmonious working together of education officers, inspectors and teachers. Later he sought to extend this partnership to parents.

Eric William Henry Briault was the son of a master jeweller. Brought up in Brighton, he won a scholarship from Brighton and Hove Grammar School to Peterhouse, Cambridge. He read history, before switching to geography, and got a first. He was also an excellent athlete. In 1933 he won a Blue, being placed second in the Varsity threemiles, and in the previous two years he won half-blues for cross-country

running. From Cambridge he went straight into teaching, counting himself fortunate to get a job at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Barnet — even though that school could not afford to pay the allowance normally given to those holding first-class degrees. Here he proved a natural teacher, inspiring children not only in the classroom, but in athletics and cross-country running. He persuaded the headmaster, governors and groundsman to build a steeplechase water-jump for pupils.

In 1935 Briault married his teenage

ERIC BRIAULT



sweetheart, Marie Knight. At this time he was spending many hours walking the Sussex countryside, researching the land utilisation. He was awarded a PhD in 1939, being partly responsible for the Sussex edition of Dudley Stamp's original series of county books, which for the first time studied all aspects from geology through to present day usage of the

In 1937 he left Queen Elizabeth Grammar School to become head of geography at Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith. There, too, he revolutionised not only geography teaching but athletics and cross-coun-

try running.

He was a convinced Christian pacifist, and he led pupils on "farming camps" during the war years. By 1947 he had become one of the most respected schoolboy athletics coaches in the South East of England.

His ambition had originally been to become a headmaster. Many of his former pupils from these years thought that he should never have left teaching. But, as he was now recognising, the fact of having registered as a conscientious objector effectively closed the door on any such prospect. When in 1948 one of his colleagues drew his attention to an advertisement for an inspector of geography in the service of the London County Council, he applied for it and, rather to his surprise, found himself appointed. Being initially also district inspector for Lambeth brought him into contact with underprivileged children.

He was honorary secretary of the Royal Geographical Society for ten years, 1953-63, and increasingly became one of the country's field-work experts. Having started with pupils, he now led expeditions and courses for teachers. His speed of walking, especially in mountains, began to provide the stuff of legends.

in 1956 he was promoted to Deputy Education Officer of the LCC, much to the annoyance of those who had come up a purely administrative route. Having previously been asked to chair the relevant committee, he was obviously already interested in the development of comprehensive schools and his own extensive experience as a teacher. and knowledge of the education system, made him the ideal figure to have charge of the reorganisation of inner London's secondary schools.

After he became Education Officer in 1971 of what by then had become the Inner London Education Authority, he was responsible for a number of important initiatives which were in some ways ahead of their time. His efforts to weaken the barriers between the different levels of the educational system culminated in the publication of an influential report, An Educational Service for the Whole Community, some tenets of which are still relevant to educational policy today.

Briault was a superb juggler of projects. He would still find time, in the thick of whatever problem he was tussling with, to visit a couple of play centres. And if, later that same day, he was missing from some prizegiving, it was often because he was a mile down the road attending a brass band concert given by a boys' school.

Just before his retirement in 1976.

Briault was appointed CBE. Moving to Storrington in Sussex, he got involved with the education department at Sussex University, and accepted a post as Visiting Professor of Education. There, together with the research team, he published Falling Rolls in Secondary Schools (1980) and Primary School Management (1990). During his hectic years as a staff inspector, he had found time to co-author the much used Alevel textbook An Introduction to Advanced Geography (1957), which pioneered a new way of introducing concepts through specific examples. Geography in and out of Schools followed in 1960.

He and his wife, Marie, who survived him for just six days, celebrated their diamond wedding last summer. He is survived by two sons and a

THE EARL OF WARWICK

died on January 20 aged 61. He was born on May 15, 1934.

THE Earl of Warwick lived most of his later years as a tax exile in Paris and Spain. Very little was known of his Garboesque existence abroad, although he was thought to be immensely wealthy and to live a playboy lifestyle.

But as Lord Brooke — the

title by which he was known in younger days - he had sparked off a lively debate among stately home owners in Britain for what many considered to be a cavalier attitude towards his inheritance. Brooke sold Warwick Castle, the finest medieval example of its kind in Britain, to Madame Tussaud's in 1978. But long before this, he had been selling off magnificent paintings from the family collection.

The dispersal of Warwick Castle's contents began in 1968, after the 7th Earl of Warwick resettled the castle and its contents on his son. Because the 6th Earl's death duties had been paid in full and the family had not claimed exemption. Brooke could legally sell what he liked without having to meet large estate duty bills.

Brooke's own son had no

interest in running the castle

after his father's death, but could not avoid paying heavy tax on any portion of the family fortune left in Britain. At the same time, Brooke feared that Britain would imminently fall under an extreme left-wing socialist government, with dire consequences for his own class. For a combination of these reasons, Brooke thought it advis-able to liquidate the family's assets in Britain, and to rebuild the family fortune abroad. Much amusement was had by the press at the expense of the family motto, Vix ea nostra voco (i scarcely call these things our own).



David Robin Francis Guy Greville was born in Warwick Castle, the son of the 7th Earl and his first wife. His father had been a romantic society figure, with dashing, dark good looks, and he had briefly lived in Hollywood with the intention of making a film career. His son - given the courtesy title of Lord Brooke, and forever after known as Brookie - followed his father to Eton. He inherited the 7th Earl's looks and charm, and his name regularly appeared in the gossip columns of the 1950s. Princess Margaret attended his 21st birthday party in 1955 at Warwick, when the entire castle was lit by flickering candles. Every artificial light from the battlements to

the moat was switched off. Brooke studied accounting in the City as a young man, and in 1956 married Sarah. daughter of the copper magnate Alfred Chester Beatty. They had a son and daughter. before the marriage was dis-solved in 1967. The following year, almost a decade after his father had made the castle over to him and left the country as a tax exile, Brooke moved into the castle. Up until that point the castle's visitors had had the run of the place almost to themselves.

The issue of visitors was one of the most reasonable argu-

SULTAN RAHI

ments against Brooke's subsequent behaviour. Warwick Castle was a thriving tourist attraction in those days, equipped with ghost towers, grisly torture dungeons and medieval banqueting facili-ties. It more than paid for its own upkeep, and Brooke could not seriously claim poverty. But he was alarmed by the draconian tax measures of the mid-1970s, and by 1975, had decamped to Paris as a tax exile. He spent his days learning French, and in long lunches at the Travellers Club.

Two years later, Brooke faced an avalanche of criticism — much of it from distant branches of the Greville fam-ily — when it was discovered that he had been quietly breaking up his castle's fine art collection. A painting of Elizabeth I and four Canalettos were sold that year, and many more excellent works

Then, in 1978, Brooke sold the actual castle to Madame Tussaud's. The fine state rooms, which once entertained the Warwicks' houseguests, were now filled with waxwork models of Edwardian society

Brooke refused to discuss his actions, arguing that it was his property to do with as he liked: "It's a lot of bother looking after a castle, you know." Those who knew him well, however, said that he cared deeply about the family home. He inherited the title on his father's death in 1984.

He never remarried, though after his divorce his name was linked with some glamorous women. Among these, in the early 1970s, was the Nigerian model Mynah Bird. The earl is survived by his daughter Charlotte, whose husband, Andrew Fraser, son of Lord Lovat, died in 1994 after being gored by a buffalo in Tanzania: and by a son, Guy David Greville, the present Lord Brooke, who succeeds to the earldom.

CHARLES MADGE

Charles Madge, poet and sociologist, died in London on January 17 aged 83. He was born in Johannesburg on October 10, 1912.

all of the

THOUGH modest - sometimes to the point of self effacement — Charles Madge was a man of considerable talent. The variety of his accomplishment was reflected work: first as a poet, then as a pioneer and leading practitioner in the field of social research, and thirdly as a Professor of Sociology who also carried out UN projects in the developing world.

Charles Henry Madge's first claim to public recognition was as one of a generation of left-leaning 1930s poets. A selection of his verse, chosen by W. B. Yeats, can be found alongside that of Auden. Spender, MacNeice and Day Lewis in the Oxford Book of Modern English Verse (1938). His style was influenced by his interest in science, by surrealism and by the traumatic impact on the left-wing Thirties generation of the Spanish Civil War.

Madge's poetic output grad-ually dwindled over the de-cades and little of what he wrote reached new genera-tions of readers in the 1960s and 1970s. However, in the early 1990s he regained something of his former reputation when The Independent printed five of his prewar poems, in the diversity of his life's and in 1995 his collected works were published under the title Of Love, Time and Places. Madge left Cambridge

without having completed his degree, and worked for a while as a reporter for the Daily Mirror. His discovery that what "ordinary" people really thought was different from that which the elite believed they thought, led him in 1937 to join in partnership with the anthropologist Tom Harrisson to set up an organisation called Mass Observation - to conduct one of the first major systematic inqui-ries into public opinion. Within two years this organisation had grown to embrace more



than 2,000 voluntary observers all over Britain. A uniquely rich store of data on the everyday lives of the population at that time was built up and a compilation of some of it published in 1939 in a book

Britain by Mass Observation. Madge next worked with Keynes at the National Institute for Social and Economic Research before moving on to Political and Economic Planning — an independent medi-

cal and social research organ-isation. He then became director of the Pilot Press. These iobs were to form the basis from which he was to continue his output of papers on planning for the economic and social future of postwar Britain.

His next role was a fresh departure. He became social development officer for the embryonic Stevenage New Town. However, the bureaucratic aspects of this job were uncongenial and in 1950 he accepted a post as Professor of Sociology at Birmingham University. At that time, in the minds of

many conservative academics, sociology was something of a suspect discipline. Yet Madge soon established himself as a respected member of staff and was several times commissioned by the UN to work for its agencies in Asia and Africa. However, with the student disruptions of the 1960s, he began to feel an unease with the administrative aspects of his role and in 1970 he retired from university life.

haps his greatest achievement in later years was his crucial role in bringing to publication the work of his Cambridge friend, the documentary filmmaker Humphrey Jennings. Jennings had worked briefly with Madge at the start of Mass Observation, and had drawn on that experience when he went on to join the Crown Film Unit. He had, over the span of many years, been compiling a collection of texts, covering the period 1660-1886, which chronicled the reactions of contemporary imaginary writers and thinkers to the coming of the machine. When Jennings died,

Madge went on to publish research findings on art stu-

dents' experiences and on

inner city poverty. But per-

Madge took on the task of editing this material. After long efforts to find a publisher and much re-editing of the texts, in collaboration with Jennings's daughter, this important work was published under the title Pandemonium in 1985. Madge's final years were

overshadowed by declining health, but he never lost his intellectual edge or his concern for the future of humanity. Though youthful ideals had been tempered by an awareness of how human imperfections often frustrate social progress, this awareness never discouraged him from proposing ways to im-prove on what he saw as avoidably squalid or harmful social and political developments.

Madge married in 1938 the poet Kathleen Raine. This marriage was dissolved. In 1942 he married the novelist Enes Pearn who died in 1976, and in 1979 he married for a third time Evelyn Brown. In 1984 she also died. He is survived by a son and daughter from his first marriage, and by a son and a daughter from his second.

Sultan Rahi, Pakistani film actor, was shot dead near Gujranwalla on January 9 aged 57. He was born in 1938. IN A country largely bereft of heroes, Sultan Rahi was a

titan. Loved as much for his moustache as for his simplicity, the burly Rahi personified all that was popular and cheering in the Punjabi cinema of Pakistan. His contribution to Pakistani vernacular culture could be gauged in the outbreak of grief across the country when news of his death first broke. Buried in Lahore, the city of his adop-tion, Rahi attracted to his funeral the same milling crowds as had flocked earlier

in a manner that was never seen in any of the films in which he had starred: and there were approximately 700 of them. Travelling by road from Islamabad to Lahore. Rahi's car was stopped apparently by bandits, al-though the police seem not yet to be satisfied of this - and he was shot in the face by the assailants. He died within

to watch him, alive, on screen.

The film star met his death

minutes of the incident. On screen this would not have happened. Rahi would almost certainly have growled his trademark oaay — demotic Punjabi for "watch it" disarmed the pistol-packers, and beaten them to a chutney. He performed routines like that in film after film, and his macho or mardana style was adored by Pakistan's Punjabi

masses. Punjab's finest son was in fact born in Saharanpur, now in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. In 1947, the year of India's partition, he migrated with his parents to Pakistan. The family settled in Karachi, in the area of Lalukhet, today the epicentre of that city's civil strife.



The young Muhammad Sultan — he changed his name to Sultan Rahi only later had a cinematic passion that was quite unstoppable. After finishing school, he ventured to Lahore, the home of Pakistani cinema, in the hope of finding the employment of his choice. There, he spent 15 years doing odd jobs for filmwallahs and sometimes landing the part of an extra.

It was not until 1971, when he was 33, that he secured the sort of role for which he had come to Lahore, in Iqbal Kashmiri's Babul. A year later, Rahi took the country by storm: in a film called Bashira, he played a rural thug who in the end redeems himself, in a scene which ordinary Punjabis greatly enjoyed, by stabbing to death a brutal landlord.

If that film won for Rahi the following of the Punjabi peas-antry, Maula Jat (1979) secured their adoration forever This film, perhaps the most important in the history of

Pakistani cinema — for it ensured that the Puniabi language eclipsed Urdu as the major cinematic medium broke every existing record at the box office. It ran in Lahore cinemas for five years.

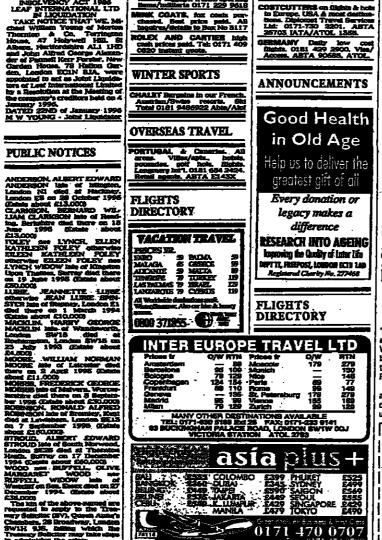
Rahi played the eponymous character, who represents all that is good and honest his duels in the film with the Sindhi actor Mustafa Qureshi, who here played the evil "Nuri Nath", have passed into Pakistani folklore. One of Rahi's lines from the film was recited by many of those who mourned his death: "Maule nu maula na mare te maula nai marda".

Playing on the word "Maula", which, in addition to being the character's name, is also the Punjabi synonym for God, the line says that "Only God can kill Maula". It was this indestructibility that won him his legions, as well as his charitable work and lifelong devotion to Islam. He is survived by his wife,

two sons and a daughter.

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THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the ollowing announcement-Early this morning a British patrolling

squadron of battle-cruisers and light cruisers under Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, with a destroyer flotilla under Commodore Tyrwhitt, sighted four German battle-cruisers, several light cruisers, and a number of destroyers, steering westward, and apparently making for the English coast.

The enemy made for home at high speed.

BATTLE IN THE NORTH SEA.

GERMAN RAIDERS FOILED.

They were at once pursued, and at about 9.30 a.m. action was joined between the battlecruisers Lion, Tiger, Princess Royal, New Zealand, and Indomitable on the one hand, and Derfflinge, Seydlitz, Moltke, and Blücher on the other.

A well-contested running fight ensued. Shortly after 1 o'clock Blücher, which had previously fallen out of the line, capsized and

(By Our Naval Correspondent.) The news which has come from the North Sea. of the doings of the squadrons under Vice-Admiral Beatty and Commodore Tyrwhitt is most welcome and inspiriting. It will be some consolation to our seamen for the disappoint-

ON THIS DAY

January 25, 1915 类型形列除

The German Navy had hoped to repeat its bombardment of the East Coast in December 1914. HMS Lion carried 13.5in guns which hammered the battlecruiser Blucher, finally sinking her.

ment they experienced on the last occasion that Germany sent out her battle-cruisers for a raid. The pitcher may go once too often to the well. Grand Admiral von Tirpitz cannot say he had not warning of what might happen if he decided to repeat the tactics of December 16 when he sent his cruisers to shell Scarborough and the Hartlepools.

On this occasion they appear to have been on their way to repeat the operation when they were so fortunately sighted by our patrolling squadrons. From the composition of the German force, which included battle-cruisers,

light cruisers, and destroyers, it is evident that

the adventure was to be made on a large scale and possibly at a longer distance from their

After this affair the German newspapers and their naval critics will cease their gibes about the British Fleet being condemned to inactivity and afraid to leave its ports. One large armoured cruiser sunk and two battle-cruisers seriously damaged are fairly good evidence that our seamen are on the alert and are quite ready to give the enemy an opportunity for showing what they are made of whenever he cares to seize it.

Although we are not told exactly where the British patrolling squadrons met the Ger-mans, it may be assumed, since it was in the early morning, that the latter intended to make a descent upon the English coast, and therefore it was probably in the neighbourhood of Dogger Bank.

However much they were inclined to throw their shells upon the English church-goers on Sunday morning, they were in no fettle for a fight, and, as Sir David Beatty says in his report, they turned at once and made for home at high speed.

From what we know of other battles at sea and the long ranges at which fire is opened, it may be that something near 10 miles separated the squadrons when this happened.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Major seeks elections for Ulster

■ John Major announced plans for early elections to a Northern Ireland assembly as a new road to peace after an international commission said the paramilitaries would never bow to his demand that they give up their guns before being admitted to all-party talks.

The move, which could lead to elections by May, was greeted angrily by nationalists. John Hume of the SDLP accused the Prime Minister of buying Unionist votesPages 1, 8, 9

Blair crushes revolt over Harman

■ Harriet Harman was safely entrenched in her Shadow Cabinet job after a fighting Commons attack against the Conservatives and a striking display of Tony Blair's mastery over his party. The Labour leader crushed a party revolt

Tory hope

The Tories have climbed to their highest position in the polls for over two years even before Labour's rows over the Harriet Harman have had time to affect public opinion Page 1

Sarah ward of court Sarah Cook, the 13-year-old who with her parents' blessing "married" a Turkish waiter she met on a family holiday, was made a ward of court Page i

Prince's opinion

The Prince of Wales, in a stinging criticism of plans to celebrate the millennium, says that the marking of the new century is in danger of becoming a giant but meaningless party with no spiritual significance Page J

Princess's adviser

The Princess of Wales has appointed a businesswoman with a passion for amateur dramatics and cordon bleu cookery as her public relations adviser Page 2

Sex case teacher free A music teacher accused of giving sexual favours to under-age boys walked free after a judge accepted that although there was a clear case against her it would be un-

....Page 3 fair to proceed.... **Warmer Antarctica** Ice sheets in Antarctica are disap-

pearing as rising temperatures appear to confirm fears of global

Cathedral charge

The Roman Catholic Church was accused by English Heritage of deliberately letting St Mary's Old Cathedral, Middlesbrough, fall into ruin...

Wealth gap narrows

The gap between rich and poor. which widened during the Thatcherite 1980s, has remained almost constant during the eco-Santer pressure

Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, tried to silence the growing chorus of doubt over European monetary

..... Page 12 House 'forgery' Kiko Nakahara, a British resi-

police and charged with forgery and breach of trust after allegedly buying 15 historic properties and stripping them of their .. Page 13

dent, has been arrested by French

Firing squad Tonight, John Albert Taylor, a convicted murderer and rapist, is due to be strapped to a chair in a converted warehouse beneath Utah's Wasatch Mountains and shot through the heart by five anonymous marksmen .. Page 14

Clinton triumph

Disgruntled Republicans accused President Clinton of purloining the best issues with a clever State Page 4 of the Union speech Page 15

'It's unreal' says novel winner

The surprise winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year award, Kate Atkinson, won the support of eight of the nine judges for her first novel, Behind the Scenes at the Museum. Ms Atkinson, 44, has been turned from a struggling writer into a literary star by the £21,000 award. She said: "I didn't sleep. I kept thinking 'my goodness me'. It's a bit unreal"...... Page 3



Joanna Lumley cuddles Babe, a piglet named after the hit film, to launch a campaign to end exports of live animals in Europe

BUSINESS

Jobs: Short Brothers, the Belfast company, put 1,500 workers on three-months' notice of redundancy in case efforts to rescue Dutch plane-maker Fokker fail....Page 23 Belling: A solicitor and a former

nuts and bolts salesman were found guilty of defrauding the illfated cooker maker and some of Europe's largest companies, in a £13 million operation.......Page 23

Returns: Bradford & Bingley, the seventh largest building society, cut its mortgage rate to 7.24 as part of a scheme to return £50 million in improved rates...Page 23 Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 5.8 to

3754.2. Sterling rose from 82.8 to 82.9 after a rise from \$1.5105 to \$1.5147 and from DM2-2351 to .Page 26

SPORT

Rugby union: Paul Sampson, an 18year-old schoolboy from Yorkshire, was included in England's training squad for the international against Wales. Page 44

Tennis: Andre Agassi recovered from two sets down against Jim Courier to reach the men's singles semi-finals at the Australian Open. His opponent will be Michael Chang. ... Page 44

Football: Manchester United and AC Milan have agreed to work together on mutual interests, such as a European super league and transfer links Page 40

Snooker: The decline of Alex Higgins seems irreversible after his elimination from the Embassy world championship and his petulant behaviour ...

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FASHION

couture shows

Lace, and feathers.

rounds of the Paris

EDUCATION

Labour MP Denis

MacShane on the

British schools that

lag behind in Europe

Iain R. Webb does the

Stars in combat: In an excellent new thriller, Heat, Al Pacino and Robert De Niro are on opposite sides of the law. Also reviewed today: Harrison Ford in Sabrina: Whitney Houston in Waiting to Exhale; and the fine new Pedro Almodóvar film. The Flower of my

.. Page 31 Disharmony: In America even the most famous orchestras are in financial trouble.....Page 33 Mimed abuse: At the London Mime Festival, the latest offering is

Paper Walls, a gripping and intelligent response to abuse inside the family.. ...Page 33 Pountney triumph: British director

David Pountney has scored a triumph in Munich with his new production of AidaPage 33

Play it again John: What makes America laugh - and why is John Cleese having to shoot a new end for Fierce Creatures? Page 17 First family: Susanna Agnelli, sister of Gianni, and Italy's first female Foreign Minister Page 17 Sperm wars: A woman who has an affair is more likely to conceive, and the fittest sperm will fertilise

studies Coleridge: Bruce Boucher on Salvator Rosa: Roger Scruton on a man with quality: Andrew Roberts on Elizabeth. Pages 34, 35

pected to raise prices at the hotels it has just boughtPage 36

A LIE CAPERS

A long-term worry for Mr Blair is that if his education policy can unravel quite so rapidly the moment it is put to some sort of a test. what other ill-thought-out policies are equally in jeopardy?

The Turkish media have a point when they say we are hypocritical. We issue the pill to 13-year-olds. Is our indignation about Miss Cook caused by this man being a Turk?

her egg and produce successful

Past and present Peter Ackroyd

Rooms cost more: Granada is ex-

THOUSE AS

— The Birmingham Post - Evening Standard | data protection

selection

Natural selection

State of the President The lines are drawn between two strikingly different political vi-

Previou: Meet the Sweeney, 1990s style. Thief Takers (ITV, 9.00pm).

Review: Matthew Bond is University Challenged Page 43

If Labour is serious about decen-

tralisation, it should allow parents

to decide periodically whether they

want comprehensive schools or

sions. Americans seem destined for a fascinating battle......Page 19 Rin Tin Tin's tin

TO THE !

British supermarkets are baring

PAUL BEW

Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams has been spared the immediate embarrassment of having to accept that the present partition of the island has a democratic basis. To that extent, his leadership has been strengthened. But this is only a postponement of what is an inevitably evil

KENNETH BAKER This week showed that the Labour

day.

Party is still a snarling, jealous. vindictive pack of class-ridden bigots RACHEL CUSK

"Page 18

It is hard to get the boorishness of

beer out of the Book of the Year. If Whitbread knew anything about books, it surely would not line them up like so many beauty queens in a judging process by necessity unfair and superficial.....Page 18 JOHN BRYANT

National Lottery grants can now be paid directly to individual sportsmen and women but the real test will be to make sure they go to the deserving Cinderellas and not the Ugly Sisters already bloated with sponsorship....

Eric Briault, Education Officer of the ILEA; the 8th Earl of Warwick: Sultan Rahi. Pakistani film actor: Charles Madge, poet and sociologist

🎇 Sunny

Sleet and

sunny showers

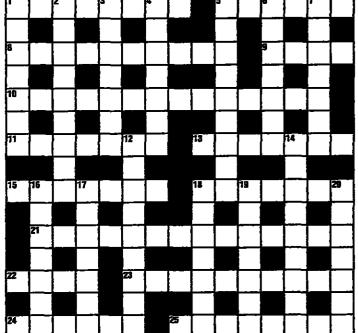
Snow

Wind speed

Short-termism; Newbury bypass;

ROUGH

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,073



- I Put one's name on column in
- travel guide (8). 5 The conceit of Lord Peter when
- speaking (6).
- 8 Strengthen Spanish port in popular esteem (10).
- 9 Pit for collection of oils (4). 10 Childish game an editor might
- suggest (6-2-6). II Vain, yet floundering in inexperience (7).
- # 13 Porter turning cross with employee (7).
- 15 Spanish gentleman owered up disturbance in gaol (7).
- 18 Refuse salesman university place for economics (7). 21 Uniting to annoy one engaged in
- making woollies (8-6). 22 Fingered cloth (4).
- 23 Unlocks with key duplicate that's said to get you in (4.6).
 - Solution to Puzzle No 20,072

24 Chop-stick (6). 25 Printed letters found in the usual parts (8).

- 1 Freeze -- one with very loud gun is around (7).
- 2 Provided lecturer, initially, with generous form of tenure (9).
- 3 Feature a boxer recognizes, say (3-
- 4 Milling crowd on fringes of party getting drink (7). 5 We ask about love - individual is
- 6 Sort of dealings that can produce
- nothing short of decision (7). 7 A sailor enjoying recreation in
- sunny places (7). 12 Firm line taken in balancing act
- 14 Give me old-fashioned stuff, a sensational entertainment (9).
- 16 Literary people used to come here for a dip (3-4).
- 17 Strange attire a small number designed for the opera (7).
- 18 A temporary ruling for style of architecture (7). 19 Start in priory, and go back to be
- प्रतंज (र). 20 Lead, for example, a resistance
- unii (7). Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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- s w Sociland
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 E Central Scotland
 Grampian & Frightands
 N W Scotland
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经验的现在分词的证据

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the state of the state of

eneral: much of England and Wales will have light snow flurries today. The East Coast and hilly areas will be the most vulnerable places. The South West is likely to have a little rain or sleet. The brightest weather will

be in northwestern parts. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a breezy day. Scattered snow showers across eastern districts, the

E England: mainly cloudy, some light snow flurries. Wind east to northeast, fresh, occasionally strong. Cold in wind Max 1C (34F)

Max 3C (37F).

strong Cold in wind. Max 2C (36F). east, strong, occasionally r Cold in wind, Max 4C (39F).

Cold in wind, Max 1C (34F) AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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FORECAST

far north and on hills are likely to become frequent later. Western parts are likely to have a brighter day. London, SE England, E Anglia

☐ Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, Central N England: mainly cloudy, some brighter spells; scattered snow flumes. Wind east to northeast, fresh. Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy, some patchy rain or sleet. Wind east, fresh to strong. Cold in wind. Max 3C to 5C (37f to 41F). ☐ NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyfi, NW Scotland, N Ireland: some bright spells, isolated snow showers. Wind east, fresh to strong.

UNE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: cloudy, some light snow showers, becoming more frequent later. Wind east, fresh, occasionally Orkney, Shetland: snow showers, heavy at times. Wind southeast to

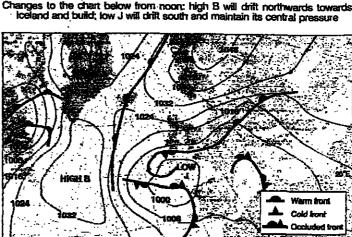
Outlook: snow showers, becoming rain in South on Saturday, bright in North West.

Q 15

39 45 45



Cloudy Cloudy Drizzle Overcasi Rain 🙅 Lightning 13 Temperatum (Celsius)



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